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HANDY BOOK
OF
THE FLOWER-GARDEN

“ Nature, in her cultivated trim,
Dressed to his taste, inviting him abroad.
Can he want occupation who has these ? ”

HANDY BOOK
OF
THE FLOWER - GARDEN

BEING
PRACTICAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE PROPAGATION, CULTURE,
AND ARRANGEMENT OF HARDY AND HALF-
HARDY PLANTS IN FLOWER-GARDENS
ALL THE YEAR ROUND

BY
DAVID THOMSON
AUTHOR OF 'A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE CULTURE OF THE
PINE-APPLE,' 'FRUIT-CULTURE UNDER GLASS,' ETC.

FIFTH EDITION

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
M D C C C X C I I I



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1893

PREFACE TO NEW EDITION.

THE idea that prompted the publication of the first edition of this Handy Book—namely, that a want existed for such a practical work on Flower-Gardening—has been amply justified by the fact that the instructions contained in the several editions of the work have been widely appreciated and acted upon.

With the lapse of time, Flower-Gardening has greatly extended among all classes of the community; and in order to place the book within the reach of the humblest, it has been decided, in publishing this, the fourth edition, to present it at a reduced price. In doing so, the author is happy to be able to convey his instructions in a bold and easily read type without lessening them. Indeed, while the Hardy Flower department has been considerably extended, the Half-Hardy and Tender departments have not been reduced.

The revision of lists has been carefully attended to; and what is considered an improvement has been made in the arrangement of the matter, so that it is hoped the work may still deserve the public favour that has been accorded to its former editions.

DAVID THOMSON.

DRUMLANRIG GARDENS,
March 1887.

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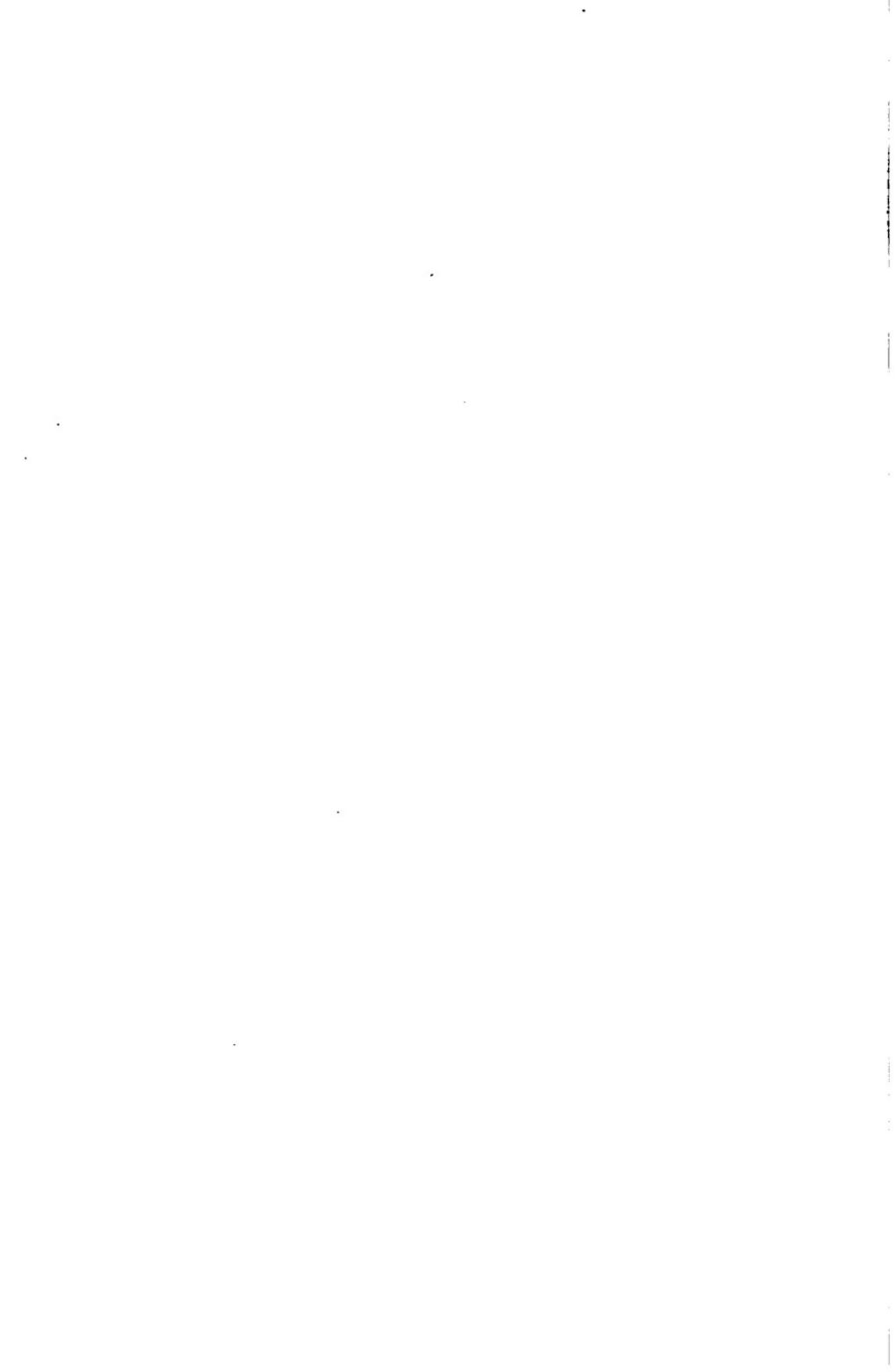
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INTRODUCTION.

THE practice of horticulture has been regarded as the most healthy employment and most delightful recreation in which human beings can be engaged. This remark holds good of all its branches, unless it be the forcing of flowers and fruits under glass, which is adverse to physical wellbeing. It is true that in the departments of culinary vegetables and fruits the element of utility is of first importance; but even they are not without their pleasures of a satisfactory nature. The retired Roman emperor Diocletian was so pleased with watching the growth of the cabbages which he had planted with his own hand, that he refused to leave them in order to resume the reins of power. Doubtless the originators of new fruits, such as the late Mr T. A. Knight and Van Mons, not to speak of more modern instances, enjoyed the most exquisite delight in cultivating and watching the progress of their seedlings, in realising their gains, and in imparting them to the world at large. It is pleasing to enjoy the consciousness of skill applied, of diligence and power exercised, and of cherished expectation gratified at length.

Flower-gardening—the subject of this little work—has less of material utility than the departments just referred to. It does not contribute to the substantials of the table, but it does to its elegancies, and has numerous other and more refining attractions, which have always made it a favourite pursuit. If the late distinguished Prince Consort was right in calling horticulture one of the fine arts, it is this department of it which especially vindicates the name. It gives scope to the arts of design, and works with the most beautiful materials; it affords pleasure both to the artist and the observer; it exhibits to the greatest advantage beautiful flowers, which are amongst the most admirable objects of nature, and presents them arranged,

harmonised, and contrasted in the most favourable circumstances ; it adds a grace to the magnificent country residence, the moderate villa, and the more humble cottage home ; and it imparts an interest to the oft-revisited flower-patch in the vicinity of large towns, where perhaps the pale mechanic or little shopkeeper, tending a few flowers, realises the truth of Keats's celebrated line—

“A thing of beauty is a joy for ever.”

Much sentiment might be expended on the pleasures derivable from flower-gardening, and much might be written on the elevating tendency of the study, culture, and arrangement of flowers, and of the joys that the sight of them is capable of raising in the hearts of the sorrowful and afflicted, and more than enough said to justify the exclamation, “Give me a fine day and a flower-garden, and I will make ridiculous the pomps and pageants of emperors and kings.” They mistake the use of flowers who regard them as a mere luxury. Theirs is something akin to the office and power of the simple melody, which often fills the eye with tears and softens the heart. The love of flowers is coexistent with the infant’s dawn of consciousness, and lasting as life ; and surely there was beneficent intention in the formation of the teeming multitude of flowers which meet the eye at almost every step. Science informs us, that though there were gigantic Club-mosses and Ferns in the earliest period of the earth, there were no bright nor fragrant flowers till the era of humanity. They formed part of the preparation in that Eden home, where a delicately sensitive human organism and an emotional mind were to vibrate like a well-strung harp of a thousand strings to every influence from without. Reflecting the colours which stream in light from the centre of worlds, the influence of flowers cannot be regarded as anything less than one of the gifts bestowed by Providence to make the sweets of life outweigh its evils. Philanthropists are now more than ever recognising the moral influence of flowers as an auxiliary in raising the masses of our pent-up cities—only as an auxiliary, however ; for potent though that influence be, it falls short of stirring the profoundest depths and touching the highest chords of our nature.

Having taken a glimpse within the threshold of the temple, and half bent the knee at the shrine where only poets and philosophers can acquit themselves, we retire to the less dreamy and chosen sphere of the practical.

The elder brethren of our profession, who can look back, for instance, to the introduction of the Dahlia, give us but a poor idea of flower-gardening as it was practised in the first decades of the century. Flower-gardens had then seldom a separate locality devoted to them ; and when they had that advantage, they were generally composed of unshapely figures cut out in turf, and arranged, as the designers fondly but erroneously imagined, after the principles of English gardening as inculcated by Wheatley and Uvedale Price. These figures were mostly filled with a miscellaneous assortment of shrubs and herbaceous plants, many of which possessed only botanical interest. The Californian annuals were then undiscovered in the Far West, and all the fine recent introductions were unknown and unthought of. Florist flowers, indeed, as they are distinctively called, were in some cases—if less formal and bright—not much less beautiful than they are now, and hence they received disproportionate attention. The consequence naturally was, that attention was almost exclusively directed to individual plants, instead of to general effect ; and the progress of flower-gardening was very slow, till the improvement of existing species and the multiplication of beautiful varieties have rendered separate flower-gardens, suitable for the effects such flowers are capable of producing, if not absolutely necessary, at least highly desirable. Hence those highly artistic parterres that generally spring up close to every country-seat. This, again, led to the well-recognised distinctions of the promiscuous (or mixed) and the grouping styles, and to the great change which has accordingly crept over the face of flower-gardens within the last forty years.

In all that is of human contrivance, change is not invariably improvement. Whether this be applicable to the change that has taken place in decorative gardening, is regarded by some as questionable. In this, however, as in most other things, individuals have yielded to the current of general sentiment and usage, and fashion is as tyrannical in the court of flowers as in any other. Whatever can be said either for or against the style of grouping plants of one sort and colour together in quantities, so as to make each bed a distinct picture, and blend all into a harmonious whole, it must be admitted that it makes the work of the gardener much more an art than it was half a century ago. The office of art is to educate the perception of beauty; and if detaching objects from unmeaning and embarrassing variety be one of the virtues of art, it will be allowed

that the present style of flower-gardening has a higher claim to that virtue than any that has preceded it.

Mixed borders of hardy flowers of various heights and colours are calculated to yield a never-failing fund of interest and delight as well as instruction. The simple perception of natural forms is a delight, and all the works of God have a general grace diffused over them. And while it is assumed that if a gorgeous and imposing picture is to be attained, it must be by massing and blending distinct colours together, I have not, at the same time, any sympathy with those who cannot recommend the one system without condemning the other. He conceives meanly of our resources who thinks the best of flower-gardening is past or accomplished in either the one system or the other.

The massing style can justly claim more impressiveness—an effect upon the mind of the general observer so vividly illustrated by the effect produced upon the poet's mind by the "dancing daffodils," the remembrance of which, because seen in quantity, filled his heart with pleasure while he lay upon his couch. A single or a few daffodils would never have led him to immortalise them in verse, as did the "dancing sea of daffodils" by the shore, which, as the poet puts it, "outdid the sparkling waves in glee."

It is not, however, a primary object here to balance the merits of the mixed style of flower-gardening against the popular and more imposing style of massing. To do so would not only be a fruitless task, but a gross injustice to both systems—to set them up as rivals for popular favour. They are distinct in principle, and alike applicable to certain and distinct positions. There is, consequently, as little room or reason why both systems should not add their distinct charms to our gardens, as there is for playing the one off against the other. The one should not, and cannot, entirely displace the other. Each should have its own niche; and when a fitting niche cannot be commanded for both, circumstances must decide which shall have the preference.

The requirements of my employers, and the adaptability of the gardens I have had to work upon in various parts of the country, wide apart and under very dissimilar soils and climates, have devolved upon me a very considerable amount of thought and practice in both the systems referred to. I do not here attempt to shield the more gorgeous massing system from any faults with which it can be fairly and legitimately charged. At the same time, it is submitted that those who

have most severely and sweepingly condemned it, have done so without sufficient thought. It cannot be denied that there is enough in a border of hardy herbaceous plants, with a few annuals and half-hardy plants mixed in, especially when the selection is judicious, to gratify the keenest sensibility to that which is both gay and interesting. But that is a very different thing from holding that, under all circumstances, and particularly in those geometrical and architectural groups of beds which compose so many of the flower-gardens in proximity to mansions of a certain style of architecture, the promiscuous system is the best, or that, indeed, it would not be entirely out of place. Such is not the niche for mixtures of hardy herbaceous plants. They must give place to a system of grouping in accordance with the surroundings.

One of the arguments which have often been urged against composing our parterres of half-hardy plants, is the comparatively short-lived display which such plants produce; and it is maintained that it would be much less objectionable could the season of full bloom be greatly protracted. It is to my mind questionable whether this be either a well-founded or philosophical ground of objection. Such an objection need not necessarily exist. Vacant beds can be filled up at once with abundant material for an early spring display, or even with a variety of beautifully ornamented shrubs, where families are resident in winter; and this cannot be so fully applied to the case of hardy border-plants. And where a family is only resident at any given place during the months of say July, August, and September, the half-hardy plants yield by far the finest display then. Both systems, as circumstances demand, are now practised, and in these ways the bareness is more effectively remedied than is possible when the summer and autumn shows are principally dependent on permanent herbaceous plants. The argument is consequently not well founded, neither is it philosophical. Would the charm of our summer and autumn galaxy of bloom not cease to produce those pleasant emotions with which it is contemplated, were it possible to sustain its *sameness* all the year? To the attentive eye, each change in the seasons brings its own peculiar beauty and charm. If, instead of change, we had one continuity of song, leafy woodland, and flowery garden, would it not become monotonous, and cease to be a source of exquisite pleasure to the mind? Lovers of flowers ought to be thankful that the year and the human heart have room for changes.

Vulgarity is one of the epithets which have been applied to the massing style, and I will not undertake to say that this is not in some cases correct. But that does not prove anything beyond the fact, that the art of disposing of flowers in beds and borders is not correctly understood by all. Such, however, cannot be accepted as proof that the most chaste and refined effects cannot be, and are not, produced by tastefully disposing of masses and lines of plants with various shades of colour. Properly worked out and understood, the pleasure of the parterre becomes one of intellect ; and long may it form a part of our gardens ! Its object is in some cases, I fear, confounded with purely botanical science ; but it is folly to contrast or compare the one with the other.

If the first attempts at grouping beautiful flowers, with the view to contrast and harmonise their colours, were hailed as at least a most desirable feature in flower-gardens at a time when suitable plants were much less plentiful than they are now, and when the art of disposing of them effectively was in its infancy, it would surely be one great and desirable feature lost were the whole thing, in its now improved condition, swept away, as some have predicted that it will be. Any system can be carried to excess ; and the evil has not been that tender plants have been bedded or grouped on the principle of a single or two or three sorts in a group, but that this system has been allowed to drive from many gardens those beautiful hardy herbaceous and bulbous plants which should always form one of the chief charms of every well-appointed garden.

The object of the following pages is to give plain practical instructions how to propagate and cultivate such plants as are suitable for the grouping system, as well as for mixed arrangements of hardy and half-hardy plants, and practical illustrations of grouping them in various ways beside the humble cot and lordly hall. And I am happy to think that many of our hardy plants, as well as bulbs and annuals, that can be managed with the feeblest resources, are among the most effective for planting in masses and lines. These have, therefore, the additional recommendation of being available, not only by the wealthy, but by the many with the simple plot before the door. These latter, as well as the well-to-do amateur with perhaps a tiny greenhouse and frame, are included among the objects of the following pages ; for I conceive that it is erroneous to estimate the merits of, or the pleasure derivable from, a flower-garden, more by its extent than by its arrangement and keep. One bed

or border well planted and well kept will be more a fountain of pleasure than an incongruous jumble, however extensive. Mere extent in flower-gardening, without a proper order of things, becomes only the more ridiculous and repulsive in proportion to its extent. My purpose, therefore, in this treatise, is to embrace the many; and I trust what I have to say may, however feebly, help forward and stimulate in the proper pursuit of an object that may be reckoned among those which afford the most wholesome relaxation and the purest of earthly enjoyments.

Remarks suggestive of Improvement.—Flower-gardening has made very considerable progress within the last twenty years. The improvement is prominent in two distinct features: the plants at the command of the gardener, generally speaking, are much improved both in extent of variety and in brilliancy and variety of colour, and the art of arrangement has made equal progress. Indeed it has been hinted that some of the sections of plants are scarcely susceptible of much further improvement; and as to arrangement, it might almost be said that the plants at our service have already been used in every conceivable arrangement and relationship to each other, and that there cannot be much to achieve within the limits of good taste in this direction. If this be near the truth, and the rate of progress is to be maintained, and the interest in flower-gardens freshened, we must necessarily look to a new order of plants, and to the reintroduction of many that have been much neglected, and in fact never cultivated as they ought, with a view to continuity of blooming more than to fresh designs executed with those we already possess. And it is gratifying to find that many long neglected hardy plants, that were long ago grown and planted in twos and threes, are now much more extensively planted.

It is not by any means vain to hope that there are yet much grace and elegance—we have no lack of colour—to be added to our parterres. Already something that is at least suggestive has been attempted in a very few favoured localities. Some plants which thrive best when strictly confined to our stoves and warm greenhouses have been grouped out of doors. To such efforts we owe much, and the observant cannot fail to profit from whatever measure of success has attended them. There are, however, few places in the United Kingdom where it would be anything short of hopeless to attempt outdoor decoration with such plants as are most at home in a tropical climate.

Notwithstanding the insurmountable obstacle which climate throws in the way of introducing subtropical decorations into

our flower-gardens, I consider it very desirable to work into a still greater variety a hardier class of plants, resembling, in grace and elegance, those tender plants which can only be seen in real health and beauty in plant-stoves. Hardy plants, such as I have referred to—or rather the multiplication and use of them—are one of the greatest desiderata of the modern flower-garden. A most desirable and attractive feature is being added to the arrangement of beds and borders by the introduction of the order of plants that I have indicated, and very similar effects to those that can be produced by subtropical plants are attainable by a liberal use of many half-hardy and hardy plants already enumerated in the nurseryman's list.

Greenhouse Dracænas, Yuccas, Aloes, Cordylines, Agaves, Grevilleas, Cycads, Araucarias, &c. &c., may be mentioned as a few among many indicative of the order of plants for which I am pleading, and which are every day becoming more popular for this purpose. As centres, starting-points, panels, vase-plants, &c., surely it is desirable to recruit from such ranks. A dozen, a score, forty, fifty, or a hundred such plants, according to the capabilities and extent of the place, would add greatly to the beauty of many a garden. The annual housing and plunging of these would not require much more space nor labour than those plants which they are designed to displace. And there cannot be a question as to the wisdom of having curtailed, in a measure, the once too prevailing weight of colour, to make way for plants with graceful foliage. The selection of such plants need not be confined to those that require protection of any sort in winter. Many of our perfectly hardy shrubs and trees can be used in a young state with very striking effect; and I hope the training of such in special ways for this purpose will one day be well worth the attention of nurserymen. With the introduction of more graceful and ornamental foliaged plants, a striking improvement may be expected on the present brilliant order of flower-gardening.

Another important consideration, in prospectively contemplating improvement, lies in the undue amount of extent on which, in many instances, flower-gardening is attempted to be carried out. Proprietors, and gardeners too, are alike in fault in this matter,—the one from the idea of enlarging the sources of their enjoyment, the other with the view of getting more scope for displaying their taste and skill. Instead of realising this, it may perhaps be considered bold to say that few things would tend so much to the improvement of flower-gardening, in a

general way, as that the area over which it is attempted should be reduced by one-third, and to some extent this step in the right direction is in progress. Surely it is more desirable to have a dozen beds about a place well filled and arranged with choice plants, than four times that number made up indifferently. And then there is the most important matter of dress and high-keeping the whole season, than which there is not anything else that so much affects the enjoyment and comfort of all concerned. The greatest possible amount of flower-gardening cannot be pleasing, or contribute to the enjoyment of ladies and gentlemen with any pretence to refined taste, unless a high state of cultivation and neatness prevails. Half the number of plants, with the same amount of labour properly applied, would be more certain to minister enjoyment, and tend to advance the art. One bed of flowers may be made to attract more attention and cause more admiration than a great number; and the smaller groups of beds may be made far more attractive than the larger, if attempted with the same means. Flower-gardens are not to be disapproved of merely because they are large. What is contended for is, that a small garden well arranged and highly kept, must, in the nature of things, be far more productive of enjoyment, and tend more to the advancement of the art, than a larger one out of proportion to the means of its owner, and consequently badly kept.

CHAPTER I.

REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL GENERA MOST SUITABLE FOR
SUMMER GROUPING, ETC.

THE number of beautiful plants which have been furnished to the flower-gardener of the present day, and the well-matured experience in making judicious selections for various soils and climates, give us considerable advantage over those who were the pioneers of the grouping system. And if it be true, as doubtless it is, that so extensive a use of comparatively tender plants has led to the neglect of many an interesting hardy border-plant, all has not been loss. That wonderful law of compensation which pervades the universe has not been absent here. In proof of this, we have only to review the many beautiful half-hardy plants which have been added to our lists, and have disputed so successfully the position of popular favourites. And as the current of popular taste is at present flowing in the direction of mixed flower-beds and borders of hardy plants, there must be a compromise. Selection from both the hardy and half-hardy orders of plants is creeping on just as fast as it is being discovered that some desirable feature or effect is gained ; and thus, by a sort of mutual concession, the flower-garden is being furnished with judicious selections, and not with an *omnium gatherum* of all sorts.

In taking a retrospective glance at some of the plants which are now so extensively used, it cannot fail to be abundantly apparent to those who are conversant with the plants which formed, as it were, the dawn of the grouping system, that the improvement in some cases has been wonderful, and in nearly all very considerable indeed. About forty years ago, the very headquarters of flower-gardening were all but entirely destitute of anything in the way of Pelargoniums that would now be

tolerated, unless as a curiosity. The *old* Horse-shoe among Zonales, and *old* Frogmore among plain-leaved scarlets, were the gems of those days. In variegated Pelargoniums the poverty was even greater still ; and as for the tricolor-leaved sort, they were never dreamed of nor hoped for. General Tom Thumb, the history of which is more like romance than reality (in being saved from a dust-bin, where, after the tender mercies of a nursery of children, it was cast to die the death of an unproved seedling), led the way in improvement ; and, in company with *new* Frogmore, the plucky little General has marched through many a gaudy garden, and probably these two have held their ground for a greater length of time than any others. Globe Compactum and Shrubland Superb led the way among sorts with zoned or horse-shoe leaves ; and, when properly managed, both varieties were very effective, although dark-zoned leaves are not now so highly prized in a bed of scarlet-flowered Geraniums. About 1850, Flower of the Day commenced the era, and a new race of silver-edged varieties. And what have we now ? It would indeed be difficult to say how numerous these varieties are, and more difficult to describe their beauty and adaptability for one purpose or another. From pure white up through the various shades of pink, peach, rose, cherry, salmon, scarlet, to crimson of various shades, with foliage of all shades of green, to say nothing of the shimmering beauty of the creamy, silver-edged, golden-edged, and bronze varieties, we have them, thanks to the skill and energy of hybridisers and sport-savers ; and all culminate in the gorgeous tricolor-leaved varieties, which almost combine in one leaf the colours of the rainbow, and vie in beauty of marking with the tenants of our stoves.

Looking at Verbenas, I cannot help recording my conviction, that though now, owing to the great variety of Pelargoniums and other more striking and popular plants, rendered less of a necessity, the principle of arranging plants in masses owed them very much, perhaps more than any other genus of plants. The introduction of the Verbena had a very considerable share in the advent of the grouping style, and helped to establish it. Verbenas made dense and dwarf masses of long-continued and brilliant colours possible, and were found of easy culture. For bedding purposes, perhaps, the improvement has not been quite so striking as in Pelargoniums. The desirability of growing only such varieties as will stand rains the best, combining distinctness of colour with a compact stiff habit of growth,

good foliage, great substance of petal, and a prolonged profusion of bloom, has very much contracted the choice of Verbenas; as well as the fact that of late years they have, from some cause or other, not succeeded so well as they did in former times. As a distinct species, now more generally pressed into service, what can excel *Verbena venosa*? It stands unrivalled by any other for producing a mass of purplish violet that withstands all weathers; but in cold, late localities it does not succeed.

The work of improvement in that style of Calceolarias which is suitable for planting outdoors, and that keeps up a long succession of bloom, has not been so striking as in the *Pelargonium*. Nevertheless, since the days when *C. rugosa* and *C. angustifolia* were the best, much has been gained.

Of Dahlias a new race of dwarfs has been furnished for comparatively dwarf groups and lines. True, some of these are not such in their individual blooms as would be looked upon by a florist with much complacency; but they yield a compact and long-continued profusion of blooms of pure whites, purples, scarlets, crimsons, yellows, and various other shades. For back lines and large beds they are very useful, and withstand rains about as well as any flowering plants. I think perhaps the most telling group I ever saw was chiefly composed of Dahlias. And of late years the old single Dahlia has been pressed into the service, and is most effective for general purposes.

We have now a few varieties of Stocks which are most effective. It may be said that, in some localities at least, the grouping system has done much for Stocks, and they have done much for grouping. It has led to so careful a selection of seed, that we have now scarlets, purples, and whites which, in colour, habit, profusion, and long-continued blooming, are perfectly unique. Of these, five-sixths invariably come double. Indeed it is difficult to get singles enough among the purple and white to perpetuate them. They are, moreover, so hardy, that all the care they require is to be sown under a common hand-glass in spring, and they are generally in flower from the end of July till December.

Many can remember when our dwarf pale-blue Lobelia, such as *gracilis*, was a cherished pot-plant for front shelves in green houses. Now, we have many intense blues that are largely used and admired by all. A better blue colour is hardly possible in Lobelias. What flower-gardeners have often wished for is a plant of the same colour, about a foot high, and of upright stubby growth, to take a premier position in various

combinations. *Salvia patens* is too straggling and uncertain except for mixed borders; and, especially on light soils, hot weather tries it much. *Plumbago Larpetæ* some twenty-five years ago was sent out to fill up the want, but it signally failed. Quite recently an early-flowering race of *Chrysanthemums* have appeared, that are most useful for both mixed borders and massing. These are represented by such as *Madame Desgrange*, *St Mary*, *Precocité*, and many others.

Who can look at the glowing beauty of *Gladioli* without being struck with the wonderful improvement which hybridisers have effected in them? We have only to look at *Gandavensis* and *Psittacinus*, and compare them with such a magnificent progeny as can now be cheaply bought, to see how much superior our material in *Gladioli* is, as compared to that of the past.

And what shall we say of *Roses*? Their name is legion, and their beauty perfectly wonderful. The great difficulty of the gardener nowadays is to select the best. Some of the sections are admirably adapted for beds; such, for instance, as the *Chinas*, *Bourbons*, and *Perpetuals*, which, at several seasons of the year, yield a magnificent profusion of bloom. To point out the wonderful improvement which has been wrought in the *Rose*, would indeed be needless. But for purely parterre-work we would not recommend their use very extensively, as there are certain seasons when there is a pause in their blooming—except, indeed, it be *Chinas*—that would mar the unity of designs; and for that reason I would recommend them to be grown in beds or borders by themselves; and what can be more delightful in its way than a rosary? They also are charming in mixed borders of hardy plants.

Among plants with grey or almost white foliage there is *Centaurea ragusina* and its varieties, which, but for the grouping style of flower-garden decoration, would more than likely have been all but lost to the country, but which is now one of the most popular and effectively used plants. It is most charming and graceful for many purposes, and for some it stands unrivalled. *C. argentea* and *C. gymnocarpa* are also very pretty and useful plants.

Cineraria maritima, *Cineraria acanthafolia*, *Senecio argenteus*, *Santolina incana*, *Stachys lanata*, *Cerastium tomentosum*, and *Cerastium Biebersteinii*, are, for their various positions, most effective. These silvery-foliaged plants have added a softening touch to parterres which would now be much missed were it withdrawn.

In variegated plants we have most useful dwarf edging-plants, such as *Arabis lucida variegata*, *A. alpina variegata*, *A. mollis variegata*, variegated Balm, *Dactylis glomerata variegata*, *D. glomerata variegata elegantissima*, *Veronica pumila*, *V. speciosa variegata*, *V. candida*, and, most beautiful of all, *Polemonium caeruleum variegatum*; also, for positions where taller plants are required, there are *Acer Negundo variegatum*, and a few others, nearly all of which have the great recommendation of being quite hardy.

Crimson and dark foliaged plants are now plentiful for grouping with the greys—*Iresine Lindenii*, *Coleus* in variety, *Amaranthus*, *Orach*, *Oxalis corniculata rubra*. Some of the dark-crimson foliaged Beets are in many cases used with excellent effect, though some object to them because they have an edible tuberous root. One or two more plants are much used in the south of England, among which are *Alternantheras*. The *Coleus* and *Alternantheras* succeed well outdoors only in the southern part of the kingdom.

Among plants with golden foliage that prove highly effective in most localities, there are *Pyrethrum Golden Feather* and the hardy *Stellaria graminea aurea*, &c.

A very great improvement in lively lavender-coloured plants are the dwarf *Ageratums*, and others, which may be regarded as among the most useful grouping plants of recent introduction.

Numerous varieties of *Violas* are most useful and largely grown, particularly in the northern parts of the kingdom, and being hardy, they are everybody's plants.

Then what can be more effective than *Tritomas* for back lines? Of these there are *T. uvaria* and *T. grandis*, which, if planted alternately, keep up a fine line of bloom for four or five months. The latter begins to bloom when *uvaria* ceases, and it is frequently fine at Christmas.

Notwithstanding the fact that hardy Herbaceous plants have come more to the front these last few years, a nurseryman in the neighbourhood of London, who makes bedding plants a specialty at a cheap rate, tells me the demand for such is greater every year, thus proving that the cultivation of flowers of every kind by the public is extending.

CHAPTER II.

PROPAGATION AND GENERAL TREATMENT OF HALF-HARDY AND HARDY PLANTS MOST SUITABLE FOR SUMMER AND AUTUMN BEDDING.

ALTHOUGH it is my intention to treat of the majority of the plants according to alphabetical arrangement, I am induced to depart so far from that general rule as to give especial prominence to a few of the leading subjects, by treating of them in a more distinct and extended manner first. Proceeding on this principle, I have no hesitation in selecting and beginning with the Pelargonium as the chief of flowering plants suitable for the parterre.

White, Pink, Scarlet, and other Varieties, of Plain-leaved and Zonale Pelargoniums.—*Autumn Propagation and Winter Management.*—About the 12th of August is the best time to begin the propagation of these Pelargoniums. By that time the plants have made a vigorous and firm growth, and the beds and lines are generally so well filled up that a couple of cuttings from each plant will not affect the appearance of the garden. In choosing the cuttings, take as many of them round the outside of the beds as can be had. They are usually short-jointed and firm, and make finer plants than when long-jointed and immature. Large cuttings are in all respects preferable to small ones. They are less likely to damp off, strike sooner, stand the winter better, and require less coaxing to grow them into good plants in spring ; and they bloom earlier than plants raised from the mere points of the shoots. Unless it be some of the very dwarf varieties, the cuttings should be about 9 inches long—some of the strongest growers even more than that. In selecting and making them,

every care should be taken not to bruise them ; for if the stems are bruised, they are more subject to damp off. In making them, cut the bottom end off, close to the first leaf, with a sharp, thin-bladed knife ; remove the leaves close to the stem up to the third joint. They are then ready for insertion, which should be attended to before the cutting becomes flaccid. They should be dibbled in with a dibble considerably thicker than the cuttings, so that the hole is sufficiently large to allow of them being inserted without abrasion.

Boxes $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot wide, and 4 inches deep are excellent for striking in. In each box there should be nine auger-holes for drainage, and over each hole a single crock. Then prepare a compost, consisting of one part loam, one part leaf-mould, with a fourth of the whole of sand. This should be passed through a half-inch sieve, to separate the roughest part, and thoroughly mix the whole. A thin layer of the siftings should be placed over the bottom of the box, and then fill up to the rim, and press firmly, especially round the sides of the box. Where sand is plentiful, it is a good plan to cover the surface of the soil not more than a quarter of an inch deep with it. This prevents mouldiness on the surface of the soil, and keeps it moderately moist with less watering.

Sixty cuttings of the stronger, and seventy of the smaller growing in each box are quite sufficient. If inserted thicker, they become drawn, and do not stand the winter so well, nor make such fine plants. As soon as the cuttings are put in, the boxes should be removed at once to the most warm and airy place at command—such as the bottom of a south wall, or any position where they can have the full blaze of the sun : a cool shaded place is the worst possible for them. The boxes should be placed on bricks, rails of wood, or anything that will raise them off the ground, so that worms do not get access, and to keep the boxes from rotting. They should have as much water given to them through a fine rose as will wet the whole of the soil, and settle it well about the cuttings, and afterwards be kept in a medium state of moisture. If they can be placed in cold pits or frames, so that, in the event of heavy rains, they can be covered with glass, all the better ; but glass is not necessary for any other purpose in striking them.

In about three weeks they will be well rooted, and commencing to grow. All the blooms, and the very point of each cutting, should be picked off for the present, and no more water must be given than is sufficient to keep the soil in a moderately

moist condition. The great object for successful wintering is to get hardy stocky growth; and if kept liberally supplied with water, or shaded, this is not attainable. When they begin to grow, any of the cuttings that overtop their fellows should have their points pinched out again; and when the leaves become crowded some of them should be removed, to allow a circulation of air about the young plants.

They may stand outdoors till danger from frost or drenching rains is apprehended, which time depends considerably on the climate of the locality. A good place to winter them is a dry pit, with sufficient amount of fire-heat to keep them safe from frost, and expel damp when necessary. They will winter perfectly well in any cool, airy, light house, where they can be kept dry, and have a free circulation of air. If they are thick of foliage at housing-time it should be thinned. It is much better to remove it while in a healthy state than first to allow it to become unhealthy and decaying, which is generally the case if they are housed without a little thinning. After being housed they should be carefully preserved from damp overhead; and after the end of October they should not have more water than is sufficient to keep them from drooping; and during damp weather in winter, they sometimes do not require water for weeks at a time. All through winter, decaying leaves should be removed as they appear, and occasional fires be made to dry up damp. In this way I usually winter many thousands of these Zonale Pelargoniums with scarcely any loss of plants; and in boxes such as I have described they occupy little space, and are easily moved when required.

In large establishments where there is plenty of glass, it is a good plan to put the cuttings at once into pits where there are hot-water pipes, to preserve from frost. In this way neither boxes nor pots need be used, the body of the pit being prepared with five or six inches of light soil, and the cuttings dibbled in according to their sorts; they may remain undisturbed till spring. In this way less trouble and labour are needed than by any other: few places, however, can so accommodate them, and the next best way is that which I have described, and which is more generally applicable both to small and large quantities.

Some gardeners strike them in the open ground in light sandy soil, and as soon as they are rooted, lift them and pot them, either singly in small pots, or a few together in larger ones. This is a very good method, but it has the disadvantage of

requiring more labour in the first instance, and more room and attention in watering through the winter, than the box method, which is equally as suitable for the amateur, who only requires to strike and winter a few scores on a shelf in his greenhouse; for the boxes can be of any dimensions to suit the position in which they are to be wintered.

Late Autumn Propagation.—When circumstances occur that prevent the propagation of the required number of Pelargoniums at so early a period as I have recommended as the best time, and when the propagation cannot be completed till later in autumn, different treatment is required to be successful. When later than the middle of September, it is best, in most localities, to put them under glass as soon as they are put in the cutting-boxes. A light, airy, dry house or pit, avoiding a cold, damp bottom, is the best for them at that date. When propagation is delayed till October, they do not root with certainty or success without artificial heat. At this season the cuttings should be selected even larger than I have recommended for early propagation; and 8-inch pots are preferable to boxes for striking in, inasmuch as their depth gives more room for thorough drainage, which is indispensable. Moreover, the air and light play more freely about the cuttings in small round detachments than in larger squares in boxes. This is of importance, because damp is the greatest evil to contend with in late striking. No more water should be given than is just sufficient to keep them from shrivelling; and a close, damp, cold atmosphere must be prevented by fire-heat and air-giving during dull weather, with a temperature of about 60° at night. Cuttings put in up till the end of October do very well. It is necessary to winter these in a temperature a little warmer than is sufficient for early-struck stock, for striking by fire-heat at a duller season renders late ones more tender, and liable to suffer in a cold, damp atmosphere; and, besides this, they require to be kept somewhat more moist at the root than plants with firmer tissues, and on that account more warmth is necessary to guard against damping off.

Spring Treatment.—The middle of February is early enough to begin potting off Zonale Pelargoniums; and the spring treatment required to make fine plants by the middle of May, of such a stock of young plants as is produced by the practice I have described, is very simple, and different from that which is rendered necessary by selecting small cuttings at a later season, and afterwards treating them tenderly. Unless in the

case of scarce sorts that I wish to increase by spring propagation, they are never put into heat after being potted off. Not that a little fire-heat, for a fortnight or so after they are potted, would be anything else than favourable to their wellbeing, but that all available space in heat is reserved for the variegated and more tender sorts; and those of which I am now treating grow into fine sturdy plants without it.

About the second week of February preparation for potting should be made by having the necessary number of 3-inch pots clean and in readiness. For such strong healthy cuttings, drainage of any description is not necessary in the case of this size of pots. The soil should consist of two parts loam, one part of well-rotted dung—dry, and sifted through a half-inch sieve—or leaf-mould, and about an eighth part of the whole of sand. The young plants should be removed from the boxes with as little breakage to their roots as possible. To this end the soil should be rather dry, so that, after the box gets a sudden shake or two, the plants can be pulled out of it with their roots almost entire. In potting, the soil should be pressed firmly into the pots.

In disposing of them after they are potted, they may be placed in peach-houses, vineries, or any available structure where they can be kept at about 50° of heat. Should the weather be dull and damp, watering should be delayed till a few days after they are potted off. When watered, they should get sufficient, through a rather fine rose, to moisten the whole soil. Light and air are essential to make fine sturdy plants of them; and when they get well established in their pots, and before they become shaded by the leaves of Vines or Peaches, they should be removed to cold pits, to remain there, if possible, till planting time. By the middle of May the plants under this hardy treatment are strong and stocky, bristling with bloom and bloom-buds, and receive no serious check when removed to the open air.

This treatment cannot, of course, be pursued where such house-room does not exist: if, instead, there be light dry pits, from which frost can be excluded by hot-water pipes, they answer the same end. In the case of those who have only pits or frames to which artificial heat cannot be applied, and where, unfortunately, as is too often the case, the only accommodation for flower-garden plants consists of vineries and peach-houses, the best course to pursue is to pot off in March, when the advantage can be had of a short time of heat in such houses;

after which the plants can be removed to cold pits and frames, where late spring frosts can be excluded by coverings, and where they can be properly hardened off.

Such is the treatment by which fine plants are raised, when early autumn propagation is practised as I have described. But there are many so circumstanced that, though they find room to winter them in cutting pots or boxes, they cannot, at so important a season as spring, command convenience to enable them to pot each plant singly. Such cases demand special rules. What I would recommend as a good course under such circumstances is, that the cuttings be put in somewhat thinner than I have recommended for those to be potted off, and early in February to pinch the points out of each cutting, to cause it to make lateral growth, and to let them remain in their boxes till planting-out time. For treating them in this way I prefer 8-inch pots to boxes, as a greater proportion of the plants are at the outside of the small round detachments, and they are therefore not so liable to suffer from crowding. Moreover, the extra depth of soil given by the pots, as compared with boxes, affords the plants more nourishment, and at planting time they can be shaken out with better roots. Managed thus, they do not flower so early; and in damp cold soils they have a greater tendency to grow to leaf at the expense of flower than when potted off. But in dry soils I have planted them out from the cutting-pots, and, though later in blooming, they ultimately do exceedingly well.

Spring Propagation.—Deficiency of stock, arising from whatever cause, has frequently to be remedied by spring propagation. This can be carried out with success only where there is a command of artificial heat all through the spring. The method I have adopted is to place the stock of autumn-struck and of older plants in a temperature of 60° to 65° early in February. As soon as they make a fresh growth of a few inches, and have pretty well filled their pots with roots, they are topped for cuttings. A few leaves should always be left on the parent plants; and all the cuttings should not be taken from old-lifted plants at once, because, if cut too close, they receive a sudden check. The best way is to go over them several times, taking the strongest cuttings.

The best time to strike these is in March and early in April, after the plants have been excited into fresh growth. Cuttings always strike more freely after than before the growth, and it is also much better for the parent plants. Well-drained pots,

pans, or boxes, filled with equal parts loam, leaf-mould, and sand, sifted through a quarter-inch sieve, form an excellent medium for striking in. After the cuttings are put in, a watering of lukewarm water should be given, to settle the soil about the cuttings. They should be placed in a temperature of 65°, near the glass, and where they can have full sun, from which it is not desirable to shade them, unless it be a short time in the middle of the day—more to prevent drying the soil than anything else. Keep the soil moderately moist, and in three weeks they will be ready to pot off. In potting them, care is required in turning them out of the pots, so as not to injure the young roots. I very frequently pot off as soon as the roots are just formed; and when room can be commanded, put the cuttings at once into the pots in which they are to remain, to obviate the check from breakage of roots at potting-off time. After being potted, return them to the same heat in which they have been rooted, till the roots reach the bottom and sides of the pots, when they can be removed to colder quarters to make room for others. Of course, if increase of stock be urgent, they can be kept in heat till they in their turn yield their tops for cuttings. By thus keeping old and young plants in heat for three months, it is astonishing how stock can be increased.

The principal evils to be avoided in spring-striking, are a damp, stagnant atmosphere, and keeping the cuttings too damp on the one hand, and on the other allowing them at any time to become so dry as to cause them to droop and shrivel. Bottom-heat is not requisite, although, when the other necessary conditions can be applied along with it, there is no objection to it.

Soil most suitable for Beds of Zonale Pelargoniums.—A light sandy loam, moderately enriched with either well-rotted dung or leaf-mould, and resting upon a dry gravelly bottom, is the best for producing a moderately strong growth and profusion of bloom. The stronger varieties, especially of this section, grow too much to leaf when planted in rich, damp, heavy soils, more particularly in wet localities. In such localities, the beds, if possible, should be made up of soil more light and porous than is desirable for dry situations. The depth of soil should be less, and the beds more elevated, and thoroughly drained, with the view of promoting a growth more productive of bloom. In some parts of the country, such as the wetter parts of the west and south-west of Scotland and north of England, it is a good plan to plunge the plants in the beds, in pots varying from 4-inch to 6-inch sizes, which has a greater tendency than

anything to throw the plants into bloom. When this practice is adopted, as it is in many instances, it is desirable to save and use as large a proportion of the plants for several years in succession as possible. Old plants flower more freely, and by being kept in their pots the blooming disposition is increased. It is generally found that, when kept thus a few years, and it is decided to keep them no longer, they acquire such a short-jointed habit that they may be turned out of their pots the last season with advantage. Some sorts are more suitable for certain soils and localities than others, and these peculiarities can only be thoroughly decided by experience in various localities. When practised in a damp locality, I have seen the flowering qualities of some of the strong-growing ones wonderfully improved by making the beds shallow, and mixing burnt clay, sand, and cinders with the heavy soil, to make it dry and porous. It is a good plan to go over Pelargonium beds, which have a tendency to strong growth, about the beginning of August, and pinch just the terminal bud out of each shoot. This checks the wood or stem growth, and the trusses grow more strongly and are thrown up more prominently than when stopping is not practised.

Select List of Zonale and Plain-leaved Pelargoniums most suitable for Beds and Lines.—The following list comprises varieties all of which have excellent bedding qualities. Their merits vary under the influence of soils and climates; but, generally speaking, they are all very good.

Bayard, crimson scarlet, large truss and fine habit.	Maurice Bernardine, salmon; fine.
Bonfire, crimson scarlet; fine.	Metis, rosy scarlet; extra fine.
Brutus, dark scarlet.	Milton, crimson scarlet; free.
Captain Holden, dark rose.	Mrs Holden, splendid pink.
Caxton, rosy scarlet.	Mrs Mellows, crimson.
Charles Smith, dark crimson.	Mrs Turner, lilac pink.
Constance, pink; superb variety.	Pink Queen, very free.
David Thomson, crimson.	Prince Arthur, scarlet; fine.
General Outram, dark crimson.	Princess Alice, white, pink eye.
Glow, scarlet; fine habit.	Rebecca, crimson lake.
Helen, salmon.	Rev. A. F. Atkinson, crimson scarlet.
Henry Jacoby, deep crimson; extra fine.	Rev. S. Hey, rosy red; very good.
Jean Sisley, fine scarlet.	Shakespeare, red.
John Gibbons, dark scarlet.	Sir H. Stanhope, scarlet.
King of Nosegays, orange scarlet; fine.	Sirian, very light pink.
Lawrence Heywood, magenta.	Sophie Birkin, salmon.
Lizzie Brooks, cerise scarlet.	Sybil Holden, pink; fine.
Lord Derby, scarlet; extra fine.	Tom Thumb, scarlet.
Madame Vaucher, white.	Trentham Rose, rosy scarlet.
Master Christine, pink; better than Christine.	Triomphe de Stella, crimson.
	Vesuvius, scarlet, dwarf, and in every respect superb.
	Violet Hill, lively rose; extra fine.

Waltham Seedling, dark crimson.
West Brighton Gem, scarlet; fine.
White Vesuvius, white.

William Thomson, crimson; very
free.
William Underwood, scarlet extra.

Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums suitable for Edgings and Vases.

Ariosta, pink.
Bridal Wreath, large white flowers.
Dolly Varden.
Elegans foliis variegatis, silver-mar-
gined leaves.
Golden Ivy, very ornamental.
L'Elegante, silver-edged.

Le Vesuve.
Old White.
_____, foliis variegatis.
Peltatum elegans, mauve - coloured
flowers.
Scarlet Ivy Leaf.
Willsii rosea.

Sweet-scented-leaved Pelargoniums.

Apple-scented.
Citron-scented.
Fair Helen.
Lady Mary Fox.
Lady Plymouth.
Lady Scarborough.
Lemon-scented.

Lothario.
Odoratissimum.
Peppermint-scented.
Pheasant's Foot, very elegant.
Prince of Orange.
Rose-scented.
" " silver variegated leaves.

A vast number more might be included, but these are what I have proved to be the best for beds and lines, because they are the freest bloomers, as far as my experience goes. I have proved hundreds of varieties, many of which are very fine, judged by the individual trusses of flower, and most of them are very fine in pots; but it requires a combination of habit and freedom of bloom to qualify a Pelargonium for the parterre.

**Variegated Pelargoniums.—Autumn Propagation and Win-
ter Treatment.**—Under this head I include the golden, bronze, and tricolor leaved varieties. Variegated Pelargoniums are among the most chaste and pleasing parterre plants that we possess. Being of a compact and even habit, they are strikingly effective either in beds, or when used for edgings and long lines. They have also the merit of standing wet seasons remarkably well. They are considered more tender and difficult to propagate and winter than the Zonale varieties; and, generally speaking, they are so, and will not put up with the same hardships.

With regard to the time of taking cuttings, their size, and preparation, the same rules are followed as in the case of Zonales—namely, they are taken early in August, selected of large size; and great care is taken that, in collecting, making, and putting them in, they are not bruised.

After trying various ways of striking and wintering them,

I give the preference to 8-inch pots over either large pans or boxes. The pots are thoroughly cleansed outside and inside. They are drained with 2 inches of rather finely-broken crocks, over which is placed a layer of rough dry mushroom dung about an inch deep, and about 2 inches of rich soil, consisting of one part loam, one part finely-sifted rotten dung, and about a fifth of the whole of sand; and the pots are filled up firmly with loam, leaf-mould, and sand, in equal proportions. The whole is mixed thoroughly by being passed through a half-inch sieve before the pots are filled up. The number of cuttings put into each pot varies from fifteen to eighteen, according to the habit of the sorts; and great care is exercised in dibbling them in with a large dibble, so as not to bruise them. As soon as the pots are filled with cuttings they are placed in cold frames or pits, on a dry bottom, and watered sufficiently to wet the whole soil. The lights are then put on, and raised entirely off the frame at back and front, so as to cause a free circulation of air about the cuttings. The only object in putting glass over them at all is to prevent them from getting rain when they are sufficiently moist without it, and to keep them from the influence of night dews. Except for this, they would be quite as well without the glass. The warmer and more exposed to the sun the better, provided there is circulation of air. Shade is never applied. In watering them, the object is to keep them moderately and uniformly moist. Excess causes them to damp off, and too little to shrivel. Careless watering—erring in either extreme—is their greatest enemy. In a month they are generally rooted; and though they will then bear a greater supply of water, it should only be slightly increased, as stiff hardy cuttings are more the object desired than larger and watery ones.

From the day the cuttings are put in, cleanliness must be attended to—that is, every leaf that turns yellow should be removed, and not allowed to drop on to the surface of the soil to breed decay. The frames should not be shut up by night or day, for stagnant air and shade increase any tendency there may be to damping off. In cold, damp localities, I would advise that, instead of placing them in low cold frames to strike, they be put into some dry airy house or elevated pit, where they can have a dry warm bottom, and full exposure to light and air.

I have always found that variegated Pelargoniums strike better, and can be wintered with less loss, in 8-inch pots, than when put into large pans or boxes. During the time they are

rootless the soil is easier kept in a proper state of moisture than in smaller pots, and is less subject to excess of moisture than in large pans or boxes; and when placed in their winter quarters in small round clusters, they get a free play of air about them, which diminishes the tendency to damping.

Should the early part of October be wet or dull, and damp appear to affect them, they are removed to the front and back shelves of early vineeries and peach-houses, where they get all the light and air to which these houses are then exposed. Till the middle of November sufficient water is given them to prevent their drooping, and after that date I have known them go for two months without a drop of water. Every decaying leaf should be removed as it appears; and, managed in this way, the percentage of loss is trifling compared to what takes place when they are struck in close frames, and wintered on a damp cold bottom far from the glass.

When tender varieties show any signs of distress in the short damp days of midwinter, they should, if possible, be removed to a warmer temperature than that of a cool viney or green-house. Still, even these varieties, when large cuttings are struck early, give very little trouble, and winter perfectly well in a cool dry house, when small cuttings, struck later in the season, would succumb.

Spring Treatment of Autumn-struck Cuttings.—As vineeries and peach-houses are started, and any other accommodation in warm temperatures can be made available in the spring months, the cuttings are carefully shaken out of their store-pots, potted up singly, and placed in heat, generally ranging from 55° to 70°, according to circumstances; 60° is an excellent temperature for starting them. The smallest cuttings and slowest-growing varieties are potted first, and *vice versa*. In the matter of pots and soil the same treatment as is applicable to Zonale Pelargoniums answers for variegated varieties. If any difference be made, it should be to have the soil fully richer and the pots a size smaller for the variegated sorts, especially the slower-growing varieties. They should not be allowed to remain in vineeries and peach-houses till the foliage of the vines closes over them, otherwise they soon suffer from the absence of light. When removed from such houses, it is most desirable that the quarters for hardening them off should be dry and light, with glass over them. In many cases this is most difficult to provide, from the limited amount of glass, and the many things demanding careful treatment in spring.

In the case of amateurs and others who may not have room in heat into which to put them when potted singly, many of the strongest varieties do tolerably well by being kept in the cutting-pots till they are planted out. When such a course has to be pursued, they should not be so thickly inserted in the cutting-pots in autumn. *Bijou*, *Flower of Spring*, and others of a similar free habit, succeed in this way, provided the beds are free and rich. On the other hand, where the amount of glass is sufficient, consisting of such structures as those from which frost is being excluded, but without heat sufficient for potting off tender varieties early in spring, I would advise that the potting off be accomplished in autumn, so that the plants may be well established before the dead of winter, or else deferred till the end of March, when there is more natural warmth. They are, however, greatly improved by a few weeks in heat after they are potted off in spring.

Spring Propagation.—Variegated Pelargoniums can be as easily increased in spring as the other sorts. The plants from which the cuttings are to be taken, whether young autumn-struck or older-lifted plants, should be excited into fresh growth in heat for a few weeks before the cuttings are taken from them. If put into heat early in February, they are generally in a nice condition for propagating about the second week of March, which is an excellent time for striking. Cuttings taken from plants while they are in a dormant state earlier in the season, I have not found to do so well; besides, the old plants break more freely when they are cut back after their roots have become active.

For striking I generally use 8-inch pots prepared exactly as directed for spring propagation in the case of Zonales, except that the pots are drained a little more, and the top layer of soil into which the cuttings are put is made a little more sandy; though an excellent plan is to put the cuttings singly into 2½ or 3 inch pots at once, putting a little sand in the centre of the pot for the cuttings to root in. In the spring of 1869 I struck 10,000 cuttings of silver and golden varieties in this way, with scarcely two per cent of failures. In taking off the cuttings, all crushing or bruising of either stems or leaves should be carefully avoided. Bottom-heat is not necessary, although desirable. They root very freely in any house or pit where the temperature ranges from 65° to 70°, where there is not much steaming or moisture, and where they can be placed within a few feet of the glass, and slightly shaded during a few

hours in the brightest part of sunny days. The two extremes in watering must now be even more strenuously avoided than in autumn-striking; for variegated Pelargoniums, though impatient of much moisture before they are rooted, are equally impatient of the other extreme. Water should be applied from the spout of a small pot without wetting the leaves. The whole of the golden and silver varieties root very freely, managed in this way; and by being potted off before the roots get more than an inch long and liable to breakage, they make fine plants very quickly if kept in heat for a month or six weeks. Spring-struck plants generally grow very freely when planted out, and frequently produce finer foliage—for which the variegated varieties are especially prized—than autumn-struck plants. It is, however, always desirable in these high-pressure times to accomplish as much of the propagation of Pelargoniums in autumn as possible. Spring propagation of the variegated sorts, in particular, need only be attempted where there is the command of artificial heat.

Soil most suitable for Variegated Pelargoniums.—This section, being grown principally for the beauty of their foliage, can scarcely be grown too vigorously. They make the finest leaves in a rich sandy loam. They are, however, exceedingly impatient of stagnant water, and will not thrive in ill-drained beds. Indeed, some of the more tender sorts do not thrive well in districts which are wet, and where the soil is cold. What they thrive best in is a rich, light, well-drained soil, with a moderate amount of wet. Where the soil is sandy, dry, and poor, they never thrive well, nor increase much in size. In such situations they require rich manure and plenty of water. This is the reason why they thrive so luxuriantly in a moist warm stove, when they get plenty of water and light.

Select List of Variegated, Gold, Bronze, and Tricolor Zonale Pelargoniums most suitable for Beds and Lines.—Nearly all these marked thus * are well-proved varieties, and suitable for small collections; those marked G. are golden-leaved, T. tricolors, and B. bronze zones.

Albion Cliffs, fine.

* Alma, scarlet flower; leaves deeply margined with white.

B. * Beauty of Caulderdale, large leaf; extra.

* Bijou, bright scarlet; leaves margined with pure white.

B. Black Douglas, fine.

Bright Star, one of the best.

* Castle Milk, variegation very white; extra fine.

B. Countess of Kellie, distinctly zoned, and very effective.

G.* Crystal Palace Gem, an improvement on Cloth-of-Gold; extra fine.

- T. Dandy, white variegation ; very dwarf, and good for small beds.
- T. Dr Masters, a highly-coloured variety.
- B.* Earl Rosslyn, fine.
- T. Empress of India.
 - * Flower of Spring, flowers cerise ; leaves deeply margined with white.
- G. Golden Harry Hover, fine for edgings.
- G. Golden Pheasant, fine gold-leaved variety.
- G. Golden Tom Thumb, similar to Golden Chain, but stronger.
- B.* Imperatrice Eugenie, clear yellow ground with crimson zone.
- T.* Lady Cullum, resembles Mrs Pollock.
 - Lady Plymouth, variegated white and green ; sweet-scented, and on some soils admirably adapted for edgings.
 - Lord Carlingford, fine.
- T.* Louisa Smith, like Mrs Pollock ; free grower.
- B. MacMahon, fine.
- T.* Macbeth, perhaps the best bedding of tricolors.
 - * Mangles, an old and most useful variegated white-and-green sort.
- T. Masterpiece, brightly zoned ; fine.
 - May Queen.
- T. Mr Henry Cox, zone of crimson, bright yellow margin ; fine.
- B.* Mrs Harrison Weir, rich yellow leaves, with dark zone ; fine.
- T.* Mrs Headley, very fine.
- T.* Mrs H. Walter, fine.
 - * Mrs Kingsbury, very effective.
- T.* Mrs Pollock, margined with yellow, bronze zone, belted with crimson ; splendid free-growing variety.
- B.* Mrs Quilter, leaves pale yellow, dark zone ; grand sort.
- B. Mrs Whalley, leaves large, golden-yellow centre with chestnut zone.
 - Mrs Carr, double pink flowers ; fine.
- G. Pet of the Parterre, fine.
- G. Pillar of Gold, fine.
 - Pink Pearl.
- Princess Alexandra, fine.
- B. Prince Arthur, leaves deep yellow, with chocolate zone ; fine.
- B.* Princess of Wales, smooth, well-marked, and free grower.
- T. Queen of Tricolors, extra fine.
 - * Queen of Queens, large scarlet flowers, silvery-edged leaf ; extra fine.
- T.* Queen Victoria, fine smooth foliage.
- B.* Robert Burns, very large leaf, bright yellow, with very dark zone ; a grand variety.
- G. Robert Fish, fine for edgings.
 - * Shottesham Pet, creamy variegated.
 - Silver Chain, pink blooms, silvery-margined leaf.
- T.* Sophia Cusack, extra fine.
- T. Stanstead Bride.
 - St Clair, large trusses, pink flower, in great profusion.
 - The Queen, silver variegated ; fine.
- B. The Shah, large yellow leaves of great substance, with well-defined zone ; very fine.
 - Variegated Tom Thumb, scarlet flowers, leaves margined with white.
 - Venus, like Flower of Spring, but has a light rosy-pink flower.
- G. Verona, fine pink flower.
- Waltham Bride, white flowers and silvery leaves ; fine.
- T. W. E. Gumbleton, dark zone, golden ground.
- B. Zulu Chief.

Instructions for those who have neither Pit nor Greenhouse, and who wish to Winter Pelargoniums in a Spare Room.—Under all circumstances, and more especially when Pelargoniums have to

be wintered in a spare room, the cuttings should be put in before the middle of August. Amateurs are very often in error in selecting far too small cuttings—the mere points of the shoots. As the successful preservation, under not very favourable circumstances, depends so much on the description of cutting selected, I want to impress those whom I am now addressing with the desirability of selecting large cuttings. They should be from 8 to 10 inches long, according to the respective sorts, instead of 3 to 4 inches, as is so frequently the case. Strong firm cuttings not only root more speedily, and with scarcely a failure, but they stand the trials of winter better and with far less attention, and in spring make finer plants with less nursing than small ones.

To preserve them in rooms with the greatest possible success, I recommend 8-inch pots instead of wooden boxes. The pots should be well drained and filled up with a compost consisting of loam, leaf-mould, and sand, in equal proportions. This is the best soil; but when it cannot be had, common light garden soil and road-drift in equal proportions, with the addition of a little sand, does very well, and is easily attained by most amateurs. The pots should be filled up firmly with this compost after it has been passed through a half-inch sieve.

The cuttings should not be put in too thickly. Fifteen in an 8-inch pot are plenty, and in the case of the strongest sorts even 12 are enough. After the cuttings are made, and dibbled in as formerly directed, the best place to set them to root is the hottest place outdoors, where they can have as much sunshine as possible. If struck and nursed in the shade, they never thrive nor winter so well as do those hardy stubby plants that are struck in the full sun and air. They should be left outdoors as long as there is no danger of injury from frost or heavy rains; and, in this case, if they can be sheltered from these, they are best left out till near the end of October. This will be better for them than placing them in a room, unless the trouble be taken to set them outdoors every fine day. By this treatment plants are produced that rustle as the hand is drawn over the leaves, and are therefore much more able to go through the hardships of winter than are cuttings struck later, or in some shady corner.

The best place to winter them in is a room with a bow-window having a south aspect, inasmuch as they get much more light than in an ordinary window; and if the window-shutters are white, all the better, as the light is thereby re-

flected on to the plants. After housing them for winter, they should have no more water than is sufficient to keep them from drooping, and that will not be a great deal, unless in a room where a strong fire is kept. It is often, I might say, painful to see Pelargoniums which have been struck late and placed in a window, supplied with a liberal quantity of water, which they are unable to absorb because of the poverty of their roots. Of course, a large percentage of deaths is the result. Over-watering is one of the greatest evils when they are stored in a room where frost is merely excluded. By being kept comparatively dry, they multiply their active rootlets much more, and acquire an amount of irritability which insures rapid progress and robust plants in spring. It is not possible to give definite instructions as to the quantity of water that should be applied. In a room with a constant fire, more will be called for than where there is no regular fire. Plants in rooms are generally placed in saucers to prevent the water from being spilt; and in the dead of winter it is a good plan to pour a little water into the saucers, to rise by capillary attraction to the soil and roots. This prevents damp about the stems and leaves near the surface of the soil. In a cool room, where there is only a fire made in very damp or cold weather, to dry the room and keep the plants safe from frost, very little water indeed is required. They should just be kept from drooping, but nothing more. In severe frost they can be lifted into the warmest corner of the room, and covered over with a cloth; but a little fire, with some extra protection at the window, is preferable to covering up. Pelargoniums, in the hardy condition that I have described, will not suffer with the thermometer at the freezing-point, if all about them is dry. Dust must be kept from collecting in the leaves and filling up the pores. This is best prevented by sponging the leaves with a moist sponge. Managed in this way, they give comparatively little trouble in spring, when, with the increase of light, heat, and water, they make fine strong plants, which, after being hardened off by being set outdoors every fine day after the middle of April, may be shaken out of their pots and planted out with success. Of course, when the weather is fine, they should be supplied with air by opening the windows, when it is not desirable or convenient to set them outdoors. Amateurs will find other points of management in former paragraphs, which it is not necessary to repeat here.

Lifting and Wintering Old Pelargonium Plants.—In cold

localities, where the soil and subsoil are damp, young plants have a tendency to grow too much to leaf, and yield but a scanty amount of bloom. Under such circumstances, it is very desirable to lift a good many old plants out of the beds in autumn, and preserve them for another year's service. Old plants, in damp localities particularly, always bloom much more freely than either autumn or spring struck plants. To winter these successfully, they should be lifted before they get injured by frost. They should be raised out of the bed with a spade, preserving as many of their roots as possible, and taking care not to bruise their stems. All the large leaves with long footstalks that are likely to wither and decay about the plants should be removed at once, and the long straggling roots cut back a little. The more entire the plants are preserved, the more certain is their well-doing; and I recommend the removal of the large leaves only to avoid their damping or decaying about the stems. They may be potted singly, or two or three together, in 5 and 6 inch pots. It is not desirable, if potted singly, to use larger pots than will just hold the roots and steady the plants. To pot singly requires more room and labour. I am very partial to the plan of potting six to eight plants in 8-inch pots, and shaking them out and potting singly in spring as room can be afforded them. When a number are thus potted closely together in one pot, all their leaves should be removed, except those which are about the size of a half-penny at the points of the shoots. For the more hardy and robust sorts, boxes may be used instead of pots; but for the tender variegated sorts 8-inch pots are decidedly preferable, when there is not convenience to pot each plant singly in smaller pots.

Whether pots or boxes be used, the treatment required is much the same. The soil used should be light and moderately rich. One part loam, one part leaf-mould, and one part sand, makes a fine compost, sifted through a half-inch sieve, to make it sufficiently fine to be easily worked or packed closely about the roots. In potting, press the soil firmly down, and make it compact and close, so that air may be as much as possible excluded from the roots. If the soil is, as it ought to be, moderately moist, water will not be necessary for some time at so dull a season, especially as the greatest enemy to the well-doing of the plants is damp. To render it unnecessary to apply water, and at the same time keep the roots in a medium sufficiently moist, it is an excellent plan to cover the surface of

the soil in the pots with about half an inch of very fine dry soil. This prevents evaporation, and keeps the soil moist without watering for a long time.

This treatment applies especially to the case of those who are not able to give the newly-lifted plants a start in heat at a temperature of 60° till they begin to root afresh and make new leaves. Where they can be placed in heat for a month or six weeks after being lifted, they should be watered at once. When this can be done, I do not recommend that the plants should be so much denuded of their leaves when potted; on the contrary, the greater portion of the leaves should be left. When, after they have had a start in heat, they are removed to a cooler place, they should just have sufficient water for the winter to prevent their showing signs of distress. Pelargoniums managed thus can be cut down in spring, and the cuttings struck; and the old plants, having a hold of the soil, break afresh, and make splendid dwarf bushy plants that bloom with great profusion; but for the centres of beds and back rows, a portion of the plants should be left without being cut down.

Lifted plants, such as are now being treated of, when managed as has been directed, can be wintered with a tolerable amount of success in any dry cool place where frost can be excluded, such as a spare room, loft, outhouse, or even cellar, where they will not be subject to damp, and where the temperature ranges from 35° to 40°. If to be placed in such situations, the whole of the leaves are best removed when lifted, and they should not be watered till spring. Indeed, the soil in which they are potted or boxed should be rather drier than it is generally used for potting. Success depends on dryness and an equal temperature, to prevent their suffering on the one hand from cold, and on the other from such a degree of heat as would excite them into growth in the absence of other favourable conditions. Wherever they are wintered, they should be frequently examined, every morsel of decay cut away, and the wounds dusted with lime in a dry and caustic state. When stowed away in dark places, where there is a difficulty in keeping the atmosphere about them sufficiently dry, they should be lifted out occasionally for a few hours in the middle of fine days. It must, however, be remembered, that wintering them in such places is, at the best, a makeshift. Still it is well that such useful plants as Pelargoniums can be preserved in such places, and those who can command no better need not be without them.

Amateurs who are destitute of any better resources than those referred to, would do well, especially in damp soils, not to plant their Pelargoniums in the usual way, but to plunge them, pots and all, into the beds. In this way they grow less robustly, flower more freely, and are easily lifted and housed in autumn without being severely checked. Being established in their pots, and their growth stubby and firm, they are in the best possible condition for rough treatment in winter. Should they be considered too tall, they should be cut down in spring to within 6 or 8 inches of the rim of the pots.

Tuberous-Rooted Begonias.—The extent to which these very showy plants have been used in outdoor flower-gardening of late years, and the splendid crop of pleasing flowers which they produce for months in succession, could scarcely have been anticipated a dozen years since. Among tender bedding plants there is perhaps no other genus so effective when properly cultivated. Their wonderful power of withstanding the heaviest rains without being damaged, gives them a superiority over even our finest Pelargoniums. This no doubt accounts for the hundreds of thousands raised annually, and sold by several nurserymen who have made Begonias a speciality. Besides the qualities referred to, they are so easily stored in winter and managed in spring before being planted out, that every one who has cold frames can grow them perfectly well.

These Begonias can be very easily raised in thousands if necessary, by those who have the command of artificial heat in early spring. And the first season from the seed, they can be made to produce a splendid display in beds and mixed borders. In the case of those who have no artificial heat, it is best to procure a stock of seedling bulbs from the nurserymen who grow them so extensively, and who send them out in a dormant state at moderate prices. To raise them from seed, it should be sown about the middle of January, in well-drained pans of light rich soil. The surface soil should be sifted through a sieve with an eighth of an inch mesh. It should not be covered, only gently pressed with the hand, and watered carefully with a fine rose. The pan should then be covered with a square of glass, and placed in a temperature of 60° to 65°, until the seeds show signs of vegetating. The surface of the soil must be attentively supplied with moisture; but after vegetating, moisture must not be overdone, or the tender seedlings may damp off. They should be raised so as to be within a few inches of the roof of the house or pit, and of course the glass covering to the pan discontinued. As soon as they can be handled, they

should be carefully pricked off into light rich soil, placing them an inch apart. When they thoroughly meet in the pans or boxes, pot them into 2½-inch pots, and when these are pretty well filled with roots, shift into 5-inch pots: all the while keep them in a temperature of about 60°, and never allow them to get dry, as they are moisture-loving plants. When they begin to grow freely in the 5-inch pots, remove to a cold pit, keeping them near the glass, and excluding frost. Here they will grow steadily and be fine plants, ready for planting out when all danger of frost is past. The first season from seed is the only one in which they require much care and attention. When lifted in autumn (or if received from the nursery), we winter thousands of the bulbs in barrels among rather finely sifted leaf-mould, or any light, moderately moist soil. The barrels are placed in a cool shed, where frost cannot get at them. They remain in the barrels till spring, when they are frequently looked at, and the moment they show signs of sprouting, they are taken out and planted in cold frames in light rich soil. Here, with plenty of air and light, they make splendid sturdy growths, and are lifted with balls and planted where they are to bloom, when they are safe from frost.

The beds or borders in which they are to bloom should have a good dressing of manure dug into them; and if mulched when planted with some finely broken up manure or leaf-mould to keep the beds moist, all the better. Should the season be dry, copious waterings will be necessary. The reason why Begonias have not been satisfactory in many instances, is simply that water and manure have not been applied in sufficient quantity; and we know of no bedding plant that so well repays careful culture in these respects.

The same bulbs will do duty in this way for years. As they gain strength, fewer are required to fill a bed. There are now many pleasing shades of colours, from pure white up through pinks, rose, cerise, violet, purple, to scarlet and crimsons of the deepest shades; and if the seed be carefully saved, they come wonderfully true. The stock of extra fine varieties can be freely increased by cuttings in cold frames or even hand-lights in summer, choosing good strong cuttings, and inserting them in light sandy soil. The strains are now so fine that it is not necessary to buy named sorts for bedding.

Verbenas.—Autumn Propagation and Winter Treatment.—
Looking at Verbena cuttings before they are taken from the

parent plants, we see them in all the health and vigour attainable in a rich soil, and under the influence of sun and air. The end to be attained is not simply how to get them rooted and established as independent plants: this could be effected in many ways, and at different times. The question is, how to effect it in the easiest, quickest, and most convenient way, and at the same time entail the least possible debility on the young plants in the process of striking; and when struck, how best to treat and dispose of them, so that they will go through the winter in the greatest health and robustness possible.

Early in August, about 9 or 10 inches of half-rotted leaves are beaten firmly in the bottom of a cold frame; over the leaves is put about 3 inches of light soil, composed of one part loam, one part well-rotted leaf-mould, and rather more than one part of sand: this is well mixed, passed through a half-inch sieve, and firmly beat down with the back of a spade: in this state the frame is in readiness for the propagator. There is not much ceremony about the selection of *Verbena* cuttings, beyond their being short, stubby, fresh shoots, that have not yielded blooms, and become wiry and long-jointed. They are cut through at the third joint from the top, the two bottom leaves removed, and dibbled into the frame about an inch apart as they are made, and all watered with as little delay as possible, so that they are not allowed to droop and get checked by being dried up. When all are in, they receive an extra watering, sufficient to moisten the whole of the 3 inches of soil, so that after-watering is rarely necessary till they have formed roots. The frame is shut down, and during strong sunshine in the middle of the day they are shaded for a few hours with double mats; at other times, and during not very bright days, one mat is sufficient. In fact, everything is now done to keep them cool. If the evenings are calm, the lights are either tilted up or drawn off for a few hours; and when put on for the night, air is left on. In the morning, if the day is likely to be hot, they are gently dewed overhead with a very fine rose or syringe. Under such treatment they root without making much top-growth—very little, indeed, as compared with similar cuttings struck later in the season in warmer quarters.

When they have made roots about an inch long, they are pricked off in round pans 14 inches in diameter, and 5 to 7 inches deep. For the more healthy and vigorous-growing kinds, boxes answer very well; but I prefer earthenware to wood for delicate sorts, such as *Purple King*. The pans are prepared by placing

a thin layer of finely-broken crocks in the bottom, then a layer of old mushroom dung; and they are filled up with a very substantial compost, consisting of equal parts of loam and mushroom dung, and a slight addition of sand. About thirty plants are dibbled into each pan, with as little injury to their short young roots as possible. They are then returned to cold frames, shaded slightly for a few days, and as soon as possible, but gradually, fully exposed to all weathers except heavy rains. They grow rapidly, and are repeatedly stopped and kept free from bloom-buds as they grow. They are placed in their winter-quarters about the middle of October, and by that time they are strong healthy plants, leaving not a vestige of the soil in the pans to be seen. From their vigorous and hardy condition, they can be wintered in an airy, cool, dry house or pit, from which frost can be excluded.

In the matter of watering, they should never be allowed to become dry, nor yet be kept otherwise than just moist, through the winter months. There is, however, more injury likely to arise from drought to such plants as Verbenas than from a little overdose of water. The pans being thoroughly filled with strong healthy roots, they are less likely to suffer from water than weaklings that have been struck in September in heat.

By following out this early and cool propagation, the amateur who can only command a hand-glass, or a few flower-pots and some panes of glass, can root and get up a nice healthy stock of Verbenas, that he could winter in the spare-room window, or in a moderately light place, where he can keep them from frost. The more light, however, in winter the better: they could be placed outside, to get fresh air and light in fine weather, in winter and spring. They are very subject to green-fly and mildew in winter, and these pests must be kept under by tobacco-smoke and flowers of sulphur.

Spring Propagation.—Although fine fresh-looking cuttings could be taken from such pans or boxes before being put into heat, it is best to put a growth on them in heat first. They strike more freely after being a fortnight in a moist atmosphere with a temperature of about 65°. If placed near the glass when being thus forced, all the better. This system of wintering a considerable number in large pans saves much time and labour, and affords a far healthier supply of cuttings. The production of fine healthy cuttings quickly in spring is a very important point in preparing the requisite number of plants; for if

cuttings cannot be had in quantities at a time, propagation is necessarily extended over a longer period, and much valuable time is frittered away in nibbling over small numbers at many different times.

To strike cuttings of Verbenas in spring, I am not certain that any appliance for the supply of heat is better than the old hotbed, properly prepared with dung and leaves. There is, however, much less labour attendant on the operation when a more modern propagating house or pit is at command. And where the heat can be regulated by means of hot-water pipes—and all gardeners who have much flower-gardening to do should be supplied with such a house—circumstances will, in most instances, decide how the top and bottom heat necessary for spring propagation is to be supplied; but those who cannot command a smart top and bottom heat need not attempt spring propagation. To do it in cold pits or frames is out of the question. At the same time, any amateur or gardener who can make up a hotbed 6 feet by 8, and about 4 feet deep, and put a hot lining to it when the heat declines, is in a position to propagate many thousands of plants through the course of March and April. Sawdust, cinder-ashes, or a little tan, or even light dry earth, when nothing better can be had, to plunge the cutting pots or pans in, and sand to put the cuttings in, are the principal materials wanted. There are few operations within the whole range of gardening calculated to prove a more pleasing recreation than the propagation and rearing of young plants; and when the gaieties of the garden are the work of one's own hands, this must enhance many degrees the pleasure and satisfaction derivable from such a source.

For the sake of amateurs, I will remark that there are many simple ways of propagation, so far as the source of heat is concerned. Take, for instance, a viney or forcing-pit, heated by either flue or hot water. Let a box 15 or 16 inches deep be placed on the flue or pipes, fill it half-way up with sandy soil, and follow with an inch or two of finely-sifted sandy and light rich earth in equal proportions, and over all an inch or two of pure sand. Cuttings of Verbenas, and many other plants, inserted in the sand and covered by a few large panes of glass over the mouth of the box, will root freely. A space of 2 or 3 square feet used in this way, may be made to produce as many plants as will fill a good many beds.

Verbenas have a wonderful power of emitting roots when they are in a healthy, growing condition; and in a high tem-

perature, where the atmosphere is moist, they will root without bottom-heat, but of course not so freely and surely as with it. A good practice, in the absence of a propagating-pit supplied with bottom-heat by hot water, is to propagate in a pit the body of which is filled up with hot leaves, and about a foot of tan on the surface, while the atmosphere is heated by hot-water pipes. It does not matter much, so far as mere striking is concerned, into what sort of vessels the cuttings are put. But looking at the work in the light of time, labour, and attention, as well as economy of space, shallow boxes $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot, and about 4 inches deep, are the best. The crocking and nibbling connected with small pots and some other makeshift receptacles are avoided. In the case of these boxes, all that is necessary in preparing them is to strew a little of the rough and fibry part of loam, or any open material, over the bottom; blind this over with a little finer mould, and then lay on a sufficient depth of sand for the insertion of the cuttings. From 500 to 700 *Verbena* cuttings, according to their size, are put into each of these boxes.

After being well watered, they are placed on the surface of the warm tan. Here they root in a few days, without any further watering or attention beyond being shaded from the sun; and very little space is required to raise a large stock of plants. Perhaps the most speedy way, where a very strong heat can be commanded, is to fill common garden-flats with pure sand; water it till it becomes quite soft and full of water. Into this the cuttings are put, and placed on a strong heat. They root very quickly, and with very little trouble; but there must be a bottom-heat of from 90° to 100° to carry out this plan successfully.

Although every joint of most sorts of *Verbenas* may be made into a cutting, a decided preference is given to strong cuttings. They require a shorter time's nursing in heat before being hardened off, and it is much preferable to have to pinch the tops off than to subject morsels of cuttings to weeks of coaxing.

As soon as the cuttings have made roots from half an inch to an inch long, they are immediately pricked off. When allowed to remain longer in a strong heat in sand, they become drawn and weakly, and make long roots, which are broken more or less when pricking off is delayed. For this purpose the same sort of boxes as those recommended for striking is used, and from which the Scarlet and other *Pelargoniums* have at this season

just been potted off. A crock is put over each hole at the bottom of the box; then about an inch and a half of mushroom-bed dung, sifted through an inch sieve. The boxes are then filled up nearly to the top with loam and leaf-mould, in equal parts, with a little sand. Into each box from 150 to 200 plants are pricked. They are then put into any convenient place where they can have a night temperature of 60°. They are shaded as little as possible, no more than is necessary, in conjunction with a moist atmosphere, and an occasional sprinkling overhead with a fine rose, to keep them from flagging. A short time in such quarters suffices to set them growing freely, and they are then removed to cold pits or frames where there is no artificial heat. For a week they are kept close, and sun-heat is husbanded by covering up early in the evening.

In the case of those who cannot even accommodate newly-struck stock in heat after pricking off, the plants may be hardened off in the cutting-boxes, or whatever they are rooted in; and after they are well hardened, they may be pricked off into boxes or cold frames about the beginning of April. In this way they make fine plants by the end of May; or, as is sometimes practised, a trench the same as for celery is thrown out, and filled up with hot leaves, over which a layer of light soil is placed, into which the hardened-off cuttings are pricked, to be merely protected by mats or canvas. And in the case of those who may not have the command of a corner in heat to strike cuttings in at all, their best and only way is to strike the required number of plants in autumn, and winter them as recommended.

The management of Verbenas has been thus minutely entered into, because much of what is applicable to their propagation and management applies to a good many other things used for flower-gardening; and in the case of these, what has been here said need not be repeated.

Soil suitable for Verbenas.—To have a long-continued bloom of Verbenas, the soil must be rich and loamy, but well drained. On dry sandy soil they bloom with great profusion for a time, but do not maintain it throughout the autumn so well as when the soil is of a heavier nature. Well-decomposed cow-manure is the best for light hot ground, and leaf-mould for heavy retentive soil. On very sandy ground it is almost hopeless to expect the Verbena to bloom for any length of time. Under such circumstances, the bed must be forced or made up with

loam, or else the Pelargonium substituted for the Verbena, for Pelargoniums do better on hot soils.

Select List of Verbenas most suitable for Beds.—The Pelargonium, with its every shade of colour, has very much displaced the Verbena for beds, but some of the following varieties are very effective:—

VERBENAS SUITABLE FOR MIXED BORDERS.

Beauty of Deal, white, pink centre, large and sweet-scented.
 Carnation, white, striped with violet.
 Countess of Rosslyn, blush, with carmine centre; fine.
 Crystal Palace, crimson, white eye, fine truss.
 Diadem, crimson.
 Dr Dollinger, dark scarlet, fine truss.
 Eclipse, crimson; first-rate.
 Edward Perkins, large white, rose centre.
 Enchantress, white violet centre.
 General Jacqueminot, scarlet.
 George Peabody, red, primrose eye; good.
 Great Eastern, very large, light pink, white eye.
 King of Lilacs, very fine lilac.
 Lass o' Gowrie, blush white, with red centre; fine.
 Lustrous, scarlet white eye.
 Master Jacob, dark plum, white eye; fine.
 Mauve Queen, fine mauve self.
 Miss Neville, pure white.
 Mrs Jno. Gould, lavender, creamy centre; fine.
 Mrs Sanders, light blue, white eye; fine.
 Nemesis, rich crimson.
 Purple Emperor, large truss, fine purple white eye.
 Roland, crimson.
 Suzanne Hugues, cerise, white centre.

BEDDING VERBENAS.

Scarlet.

Crimson King.
 Edwin Day.
 Firefly.
 Foxhunter.
 Lord Raglan.
 Melindres Grandiflora.

White.

Bexley Heath Beauty.
 Blanche Castile.
 Le Grand Boule de Neige.
 Mrs Holford.
 Snowflake.

Purple.

Blue Bell.
 Celestial Blue.

Purple Emperor.
 Purple King.

Rose and Pink.

Lady Cowley.
 Mrs Newman.
 Peacemaker.
 Sunny Thoughts.

Crimson.

Admiral Dundas.
 Conspicua.
 Eclipse.
 Géant des Batailles.
 Lord C. Percy.

Maroon.

Ariosto Improved.
 Master Jacobs.

The older sorts are still the best for bedding, less attention having been given to raising bedding varieties than previously.

Shrubby Calceolarias.—*Autumn Propagation.*—Though the Shrubby Calceolaria is occasionally subject to disease, and to die off in quantities, especially on dry soils and in hot summers, it is nevertheless easy to propagate and grow. It has the great recommendation of being a plant which not only does not require heat at any time, but it always does best when not subjected to a high temperature. Like almost every other plant, the details of its propagation may be varied according to circumstances.

Generally speaking, it flowers with such great profusion in summer, that it makes little or no growth from which cuttings can be had till October, and that is just the time when cuttings can be struck with most success. The cooler days of autumn, and its damp nights, are more favourable to growth; and young growths suitable for cuttings are then usually produced in profusion. The cuttings may be put in with success from the 1st of October till the end of November; but it is always best to take them as soon after the 1st of October as they can be had, and before they are touched with frost. In selecting the cuttings, choose those which are fresh-looking, of medium size, avoiding the largest sappy-looking cuttings, and those that are weak and wiry. They should not exceed 3 inches in length, nor have any incipient bloom-buds in them. If they have three joints, one to be inserted in the soil in the ordinary way, and two on which the leaves are to be left, it is quite sufficient. Such short compact cuttings are less subject to damp than the more succulent, long-jointed growths, and make more stubby young plants.

A cold pit or frame placed in a dry position, and into which can be put a foot or more of any porous material that will not heat, such as spent leaves, or a spent cucumber or melon frame or pit, are excellent places for striking Calceolarias in; and when a pit which has a hot-water pipe, to be used only in cases of severe frost, is at command, all the better. Over the material in the bottom place about 6 inches of light soil, such as equal parts loam and leaf-mould, and finish off the surface of the bed with two parts leaf-mould, two parts sand, and one part loam, sifted through a half-inch sieve. This, beat down firmly with the back of a spade, is ready for the cuttings, which should be inserted as they are made, and not allowed to droop. Two or three inches apart, according to the bulk of the various sorts, is not too much to allow; for if thicker, they are more apt to damp off and become drawn as soon as they begin to

grow. A watering sufficient to wet the surface layer of sandy soil should be given at once.

They now require to be carefully shaded from sunshine, kept shut up close by day when dry and breezy, taking off the shading as soon as the sun ceases to shine on the frame; and when the weather is mild, leave a little air on each light all night. They require to be kept from frost when it occurs by coverings of mats, or any other dry loose material, such as hay or straw. In about two months the cuttings will be struck; and when the weather is mild, the glass should then be drawn off every day, except when it is rain or very damp, when, of course, they are best kept on and shut down. Every appearance of damp or mould must be removed through the winter, when frost is severe and continuous; and when they are not in a place where a hot-water pipe can be used, it is best to keep them covered up so long as the frost continues. And in the event of their being subject to a few degrees of frost, the coverings should not be removed when it thaws till the plants have thawed, and then the covering should be removed by degrees; and their exposure again to light and air should also be gradual.

Those who have neither frame nor pit may strike Calceolarias under hand-glasses, and preserve them all winter in dry sheltered spots, where there is no stagnant moisture, and where they can be covered up sufficiently during frost. And those who have merely a greenhouse without pit or frame accommodation, can strike them in pots or deep boxes in a shady part of the greenhouse, where the sun does not reach them till they are rooted.

Spring Management.—As in the striking of Calceolarias, so in their after management, various ways may be adopted, according to circumstances. When grown in beds or boxes, they generally thrive best after they are planted out, without ever having been put into small pots at all. What I would recommend, and have adopted sometimes when suitable, in the absence of cold pits and frames, is to throw out trenches like those generally used for celery-beds, put 6 inches of rotten leaves in the bottom, and then 6 inches of light rich soil. Here the young plants, lifted with as little injury to their roots as possible, should be pricked out about the end of March, 6 inches apart each way. When all are planted, water well, and lay some trellis-work or common stakes across the trench, and cover with mats or canvas when cold weather renders it neces-

sary. For the first fortnight after being transplanted, they should be shaded during the day when the sun shines.

Thus managed, they make fine strong plants with very little attention. As they grow they should be looked over at intervals and topped, so as to keep them dwarf and well furnished. About three weeks before they are to be planted out, a spade, or any other sharp-edged tool, should be run along between the lines each way, cutting to the depth of 6 inches. This separates the roots of each plant from its fellow, checks them for the time, but causes them to make fresh roots nearer home; and the result is, that they lift with good balls, and scarcely receive any check when planted out. Should they droop when thus operated upon, give them a good soaking of water.

Amateurs and others requiring small quantities of plants may adopt a similar plan to this, by transplanting them into boxes 6 inches deep, prepared much the same as directed for the trench, and otherwise managing them in the same way. In this case they can be lifted into any outhouse, or even covered over outside in case of spring frosts.

When from any cause the stock is not equal to the demand, the points of the young plants strike freely in March and April in a gentle heat; but autumn-struck plants are in all respects to be preferred.

Soil most suitable for Calceolarias.—Like the Verbena, the Calceolaria requires a deep, rich, loamy soil to grow and flower it well throughout the season. They are very subject to die off in hot sandy soils, and at best do not bloom for any length of time. *Tagetes signata pumila* is the best substitute for Calceolarias on light sandy soils, that are also too poor for Violas.

Select List of Varieties most suitable for Beds.

Those marked * are best.

- * Ambassador, bronze crimson; the best of the crimsons, 1 foot.
- Amplexicaulis, lemon; fine for back lines and large beds, 1½ foot.
- * Aurea floribunda, orange yellow; suitable for damp localities, 1 foot.
- Bijou, crimson, 9 inches.
- * Golden Gem, deep yellow; fine constitution and free bloomer, 15 inches.
- * Hyssopifolia, lemon, 9 inches; compact in habit.
- Invincible, lemon, very dwarf; compact habit, free bloomer.
- Orange Boven, orange, 1 foot.
- * Prince of Orange, orange brown; compact habit, 1 foot.
- Princess Louisa, sulphur yellow; dwarf good habit.
- Victor Emmanuel, scarlet, spotted with crimson, 15 inches.

Centaurea ragusina and its Varieties—*Silver Foliage*, 1 to 1½ foot.—This beautiful silvery-foliaged plant ranks among the

gems of its class. It is considered by some a difficult plant to propagate and winter. The way to manage it most successfully is to keep a set of plants in pots, and grow them outdoors all summer and autumn, and to house them before the wet and damp weather of late autumn sets in, by which time they are fine stately plants, some in 6-inch, some in 8-inch pots, and sometimes larger specimen plants, as the case may be. To keep them in the best state for affording fine healthy cuttings in spring—which is the best time to strike it—they require to be kept in a dry airy house, and to be sparingly supplied with water, just sufficient to keep them from drooping. It is a plant very liable to suffer from damp in winter, if freely supplied with moisture.

In spring each plant is found with a quantity of young shoots suitable for cuttings studded all round it. If these shoots are short, and without a bit of clear stem about a couple of inches long, the plants should be put into heat till they make a little growth. When ready, these side-shoots are cut off close to the main stem of the plant, and made into cuttings in the usual way. The pots or pans into which the cuttings are put should be well drained, and filled to within 3 inches of the top with equal parts leaf-mould, loam, and sand, and then filled up with pure sand. When the cuttings are put in, water well, and plunge them in bottom-heat, where there is a temperature of 70°. Plunging is not absolutely necessary, although thus treated they root more quickly. They may be placed on a shelf in a viney or pine-pit, and shaded only during very bright sunshine. During the time they are striking they must be kept moderately and regularly moist, but wet the foliage as little as possible. As soon as they have made roots about 2 inches long, they should be potted off into 3-inch pots; for if left till the roots extend more, they get broken off in shaking them out. They like light rich soil and a temperature of 60° after they are potted off, till the roots reach the sides and bottom of the pots; then they thrive best in a cool dry place.

When big specimen plants are not to be kept over another summer in a large state, they may be cut up into large cuttings about 8 or 9 inches in length, with a portion of a firm stem. These, put to the number of about ten or twelve into an 8-inch pot, and placed in a temperature of 60° to 70° in the full sun, root more quickly than, and as certainly as, smaller cuttings; and when potted off into 5-inch pots, make fine plants by May. The end of February is soon enough to begin taking cuttings

for striking in heat. If propagation be deferred till April, strong cuttings root well in a cold dry pit or frame, and make fine plants by the first of June. Strong cuttings put in in the middle of October, when old plants in beds can be lifted and broken up, strike well in a temperature of 65°, and are ready to pot off by Christmas.

I have also increased this plant very successfully and with little trouble in April, by shaking out those that have been wintered in 6-inch pots, and that have perhaps three to four principal stems, and splitting them off down through the collar with a portion of the old roots attached to each. Those potted into 5-inch pots, and just placed in cold frames, make beautiful compact plants by the end of May. When planted out, the Centaurea is very impatient of cold, damp, ill-drained soil; and when in such soils it frequently rots off in wet weather in autumn, when it should be at its best. A good plan is to raise it above the surface, when planted as centres or panels, on a ring or two of stones or bricks. A light, rich, dry soil suits it best. It is a plant that does not lift well in autumn; and the best way, when a reserve cannot be kept, is to plunge it in pots. Autumn propagation is seldom so successful as that of spring. If put in in August or September, they should be placed in a dry, airy, cool house, where they can have partial shade. *C. argentea* and *gymnocarpa* are also very effective sorts, and do well under the management described above. *C. ragusina* is very easily propagated by seeds, which, to make plants available for planting in May, require to be sown in a temperature of 65° in January; and when they can be conveniently handled, potted singly into small pots, and kept in heat till the middle of April, when they require to be hardened off.

Verbena venosa—*Violet, 1½ foot.*—This old and distinct species of Verbena is, when it does well, one of the very best plants we have for large beds, lines, and groundworks. It is raised from seed sown in the early part of February, in a temperature of 65° to 70°. The seed should be steeped for several days before it is sown, and never allowed to become dry afterwards. It should be sown on an even surface of loam, leaf-mould, and sand in equal proportions, and very slightly covered. After watering well through a fine rose, cover the mouth of the pan or box with a pane of glass to prevent evaporation, and shade from the sun till the seed vegetates

and the young seedlings appear. It is very irregular in its vegetating, and is sometimes pricked off from the same seed-box for nearly two months. As soon as the young plants form two rough leaves, prick them off into rich soil about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart, and keep them in heat till they meet in the box ; then put them into a cool place near the glass.

It can be propagated by taking up its roots in spring, and cutting them into as many pieces as there are buds on them, placing these thickly in boxes, and putting them in a brisk bottom-heat till they appear above ground ; or the long fleshy roots can be put whole into boxes, sprung in heat, and the plant struck from cuttings like other Verbenas. Seed sometimes does not vegetate freely, and it is well to have a reserve of roots to fall back upon. If left in the ground to spring of its own accord, it comes up too irregularly. It is a grand autumn-flowering plant, but for early summer bloom it will not suit, being long in coming into bloom ; but when in bloom, it holds on till most others are over. It will not do well for poor hungry soil, as it must have rich soil ; and in cold, backward situations it does not bloom sufficiently early to warrant its being grown. Under favourable circumstances it does remarkably well, and affords a violet shade of colour, which is not easily got in any other plants suitable for grouping.

Lobelia erinus speciosa, Blue, 4 to 6 inches—L. Mrs Murphy, Pure White—L. Bluestone, Blue—L. Brighton Blue—L. Wave of Blue—Snowball, White—Swanley Blue—Paxtonii, Pale Blue—L. pumila lustrous, Blue—L. pumila grandiflora magnifica, Blue.—One of the chief recommendations of these popular and useful plants is that they are easy to manage. The first-named can be had sufficiently true for all practical purposes from seed, when carefully saved ; but the others, to be had true, must be propagated from cuttings. On cold soils and in wet localities it does not flower so profusely from seed as when perpetuated by cuttings. Either way it is easily managed.

When raised from seed, this should be carefully selected from the plants that are most twiggy in habit, and that yield the greatest amount of bloom of the best blue. It should be sown, if possible, in September, and wintered in a cool dry place near the glass : a greenhouse temperature is sufficient. Autumn sowing is the most desirable when early blooming is an object. When sown in heat the first week in February, and preserved

in stove-heat for a couple of months, it makes fine strong plants by the end of May; but those who can command nothing more than a greenhouse temperature should always sow in autumn. Sown in September, it vegetates freely without artificial heat.

A pot, a pan, or box, according to the amount required, should be well crocked, and filled up to within an inch of the top with light rich soil; and then a layer of finely-sifted soil, nicely smoothed and levelled, makes the vessel ready for the seed, which should not be sown very thickly, and not covered with any soil. The surface should be equally pressed down with the palm of the hand or a piece of smooth wood; then water gently through a fine rose, and cover over with a bell-glass or piece of glass, and shade till the seed vegetates; then the shade and glass should be removed, and the young plants gradually inured to light, but not scorching sunshine, till they get a good hold of the soil. The spring-sown crop should be placed in stove-heat and kept there till the plants are fit to handle and can be pricked off; then put them for a few days into an intermediate temperature.

In pricking off, use the same sort of boxes recommended for Verbenas, prepared with the same soil; only let the surface half-inch be made fine by being passed through a quarter-inch sieve. Each box $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot holds 200 plants. They should be kept in heat till they nearly touch each other in the boxes, and then turned into cold pits and frames and hardened off.

To propagate by cuttings, a few dozen store plants should be grown outdoors all summer, and never allowed to flower: in this way they form fine hardy growing plants. They can be wintered anywhere where frost can be excluded, and that is not damp. In February they are shifted and forced for cuttings, and managed the same way as recommended for Verbenas.

Polemonium cæruleum variegatum—*Silvery Variegated Foliage, 1 foot.*—This variegated form of Jacob's Ladder, which is a native of Britain, is one of the prettiest and most useful plants for lines and edgings, and though yet comparatively scarce, must eventually become a very popular favourite. It has a striking resemblance to a variegated fern. Being a British plant, it is of course perfectly hardy; but my experience of it for some time leads me to recommend its being lifted about the end of October, just before its foliage begins to fade, potted in light, rich, sandy soil, and wintered either

in a dry cold pit or a viney or peach-house at rest, from which frost is excluded. Where large quantities of it are grown, it is less trouble to lay in light soil in a cold pit or frame, and it keeps its variegation equally as well as when potted. It should not be allowed to get dry through the winter. It begins to grow in spring in such a situation about the beginning of February; and as soon as it has formed a few young leaves 2 or 3 inches long, is the best time to propagate it. It then begins to emit roots from the stem of each crown; and when it does that, shake it out and divide into as many pieces as there are single crowns, preserving the roots as entire as possible. Pot them singly and deeply up to the leaves in 3 or 4 inch pots; place them in a cold frame and shade from the sun, and keep them regularly moist. They will not bear drought. It is not necessary to pot it except when the subdivision, for the sake of propagation, is very minute or severe. It does very well to divide each plant lifted in autumn into three or four pieces in April, and plant it at once where it is to be all the season.

If left in the ground all winter, it loses its beautiful variegation to a great extent, and in many cases entirely. This does not occur when lifted, and hence the reason for lifting it at all. When well rooted, it should be planted out in a rather rich soil. If it shows any disposition to throw up flower-stems—which it rarely does—they should be cut away. By some this is considered a difficult plant to manage; but, treated in this way, it is not found to be so. It grows much more freely and better marked in Scotland than in England.

Gladioli.—It would be difficult to describe the beauty to which these have been brought. They are fine plants for back lines, and can be used with striking effect planted thinly in large beds filled with dwarfer and more compact blooming plants. Some of the sorts—such as Brenchleyensis and Le Poussin, for instance—throw out lateral flower-spikes after the leader has gone out of flower, and such varieties flower for a long time.

They are very easily managed plants. If wanted to bloom early, they should be potted singly and started in a little more than greenhouse temperature, and planted out early in May when about 6 inches high. But to flower in the latter part of August and onwards, they need not be potted where there is a suitable soil: all that is necessary is to plant them where

they are to bloom at once about the middle of April. Each bulb, when planted, should be covered with a little light sandy soil ; and when the soil is levelled over them, they should not be more than 2 inches deep. They thrive best in a deep, rich, sandy loam ; and in such soils, in favourable localities, they make splendid bulbs in this country. They should be left in the ground as long as there is no danger of frost getting at the bulbs ; and while the foliage keeps green, it is best to protect them by covering the surface of the bed with any light porous material till they have well matured their bulbs. I rarely lift them before the middle or end of November ; indeed they keep better in dry soils in the borders than by being lifted ; but care must be taken that frost does not reach the bulbs. Generally it is necessary to lift them, to allow of a different arrangement every year. The best place to keep them in during the winter is in any dry place where they will be cool and free from frost. The beds intended for Gladioli should always be trenched, well drained, and rich. They are most suitable for amateurs, as they can be kept through the winter with little trouble, and are cheap to purchase now. If wanted to bloom early and in cold localities, they will spring nicely in a room window in pots, and kept moderately moist. In good soils they double themselves every year. They can also be increased by preserving the young bulbs about the size of peas, which form about the sides and bottoms of the parent bulbs. These should be preserved by being mixed with light damp soil or sand all winter, and sown in spring in rows a foot apart, and two inches between each bulb. In two years they make fine blooming bulbs.

Select List of Gladioli.

- Adanson, rose, tinted with lilac, lower petals blotched with amaranth ; very striking variety.
- Adèle Souchet, white, shaded with rosy carmine ; large, fine shape.
- Africain, striped scarlet and pure white ; fine.
- Argus, fiery red, centre and lower petals white.
- Bayard, carmine red, and white ; fine.
- Bertha Rabourdin, pure white, shaded with carmine ; very fine.
- Brenchleyensis, deep crimson ; extra fine for lines and masses.
- Camille, light lilac, mottled with mauve.
- Ceres, white, stained with purple.
- Charles Dickens, rose tinted, and striped with chamois and carmine.
- Comte de Morny, cherry, with white blotches ; very effective.
- Constance, amaranth, creamy blotches ; fine.
- Cuvier, amaranth, shaded with purple ; very large.
- De Lesseps, white, striped with red ; fine.
- Dr Lindley, rose ; lower petals blazed with carmine.
- Emperor Napoleon, vermillion, with white spots ; extra fine.
- Eurydice, pure white, blazed with rose ; very fine.

Flamboyant, bright scarlet; large and fine.
 Fulton, vermillion red, with purple stains; large.
 Grand Rouge, scarlet, dotted with violet.
 Homer, amaranth, streaked purple; very fine.
 Horace, scarlet, with white blotches; fine.
 Imperatrice Eugenie, white, suffused with rose.
 James Veitch, crimson, stained with violet; large and fine.
 John Waterer, cherry, with white stains.
 La Candeur, white, tinted with violet.
 Le Poussin, top petals light red, under ones pure white; most delicate and beautiful.
 Lord Byron, brilliant scarlet, stained and streaked with white; most effective.
 Mabel, white ground, carmine variegation; fine.
 Macaulay, crimson, stained with carmine; very fine.
 Madame de Sévigne, cherry, stained with white.
 Madame Vilmorin, rose, with white centre, with darker rose edges; extra fine.
 Maréchal Vaillant, scarlet, stained with white.
 Meyerbeer, bright red, streaked with vermillion; fine shape and substance.
 Milton, white, tinted with rose and blazed with red; very fine.
 Mozart, violet, flecked with carmine.
 Napoleon, scarlet, under petals blotched with white; one of the best.
 Nereid, rose, with violet dots.
 Newton, crimson, streaked with white; very pleasing variety.
 Opale, soft rose; very large and fine.
 Oracle, cherry rose.
 Orpheus, rosy white, flamed with carmine; very fine.
 Papillon, yellow centre, edged with carmine; fine.
 Pegasus, blush, maroon blotch; fine.
 Penelope, fleshy white, lower petals yellowish, with stripes of carmine.
 Prince of Wales, bright red, with white blotch; extra fine.
 Princess of Wales, white, blazed with carmine.
 Semiramis, rose and white; fine.
 Shakespeare, white, blazed with rose; large and showy.
 Solfaterre, sulphur yellow.
 Sultane, rose-shaded carmine.
 Thomas Methven, violet, tinted with rose.
 Velleda, orange rose; large and showy.
 Victor Jacqueminot, reddish, orange-flamed scarlet.
 Vulcan, vivid crimson.
 Walter Scott, flesh colour, spotted with yellow.

Dahlia.—These old favourites are perhaps not now so much employed as their merits deserve. Very gorgeous masses can be made of the taller growing sorts when pegged down to make them suitably dwarf. But now that the race of compact dwarf-growing varieties has been increased and improved, they form a very effective group. The dwarf sorts, too, come much earlier into bloom than tall varieties; and though they are lacking in form, they yield a great and even mass of bloom. Their tubers are, with a few exceptions, not so subject to decay as some of the high-bred show flowers; and this is no small recommendation, now that so many tender plants have to be wintered with care.

As soon as leaves and flowers are destroyed by frost, the roots should be lifted; or if inconvenient to do so immediately after

frost, a little earth should be drawn up round their stems, to prevent a second night's frost from injuring them near the surface of the soil: for if injured there, the stem is more likely to decay downwards, and cause destruction to the collection of buds at the base of the stem, upon which their life depends. Lift the roots carefully, cutting the stems away about 6 or 8 inches from the vital part of the tubers; then allow them to remain three or four days in a cool dry shed, to dry them and the little mould that adheres to them; after which, lay them close together on a dry floor; and when placed, put fine very dry soil all round and over them, filling up all the crevices about the tubers and up the stems till the vital parts of the root are covered about 3 inches. The storing place should be cool and dry. They should be examined about the end of January; and should they be looking well and fresh, covered over again for a month; but if decay be doing its work, all the suspicious-looking tubers at least should be put into heat, to excite them into growth. But when all goes on well, the 1st of March is early enough to place them in heat, except in the case of those which are to be as much increased as possible, and these should be started early in February.

Any place where they can be put in boxes, or on the shelf or floor of a house, and covered over with some leaf-mould, with a temperature of 60°, will start them nicely. Most of the dwarf sorts are very easily struck from cuttings, which should be put in, when 3 or 4 inches long, in a place suitable for striking Verbenas and other bedding plants. Prince Arthur, which is probably our finest dwarf Dahlia, is very shy to strike, and succeeds best when allowed to remain growing on the tuber till it throws out a root or two among the leaf-mould, which it does pretty freely. Those growths that root, if carefully removed with their roots and potted, always do well. Those which do not throw out roots are potted with a portion of the tuber attached. This variety keeps badly, and a stock of pot roots should always be held in reserve. When rooted, the free sorts, such as Zelinda, do well pricked off into boxes and 8-inch pots, instead of potting them off. Into an 8-inch pot about ten plant's are put. Tender sorts require potting off singly. For cold late soils it is best to pot all; but in light early soils they suffer very little when shaken out and planted and watered at once, and much less room is required for them. They should be grown in a rather rich soil, well hardened off before being planted, and not planted till at least the last days of May, even in favoured localities.

When it is desired to keep a stock of pot tubers, and the weakest cannot be spared for that purpose when the others are planted, the best way is to put in cuttings from the short side-shoots about the middle of July. They root freely in bottom-heat, and a number can be kept in a small space by using narrow deep pots. This is not necessary, except in the case of those which are troublesome to keep in the ordinary way. Prince Arthur is the worst I have grown, and even it keeps pretty well when lifted and wintered as has been described.

Amateurs who cannot command the aid of a glass house or frame, with artificial heat, will find Dahlias not easily managed. I have known Dahlia roots kept well and flowered for years in succession, in dry soils especially, by simply cutting them down to the surface of the ground, and covering above and all round the roots with litter, ashes, or any other material that will exclude the frost. Indeed, Dahlia roots are probably as safe in this position as in any other. They start and come away with several shoots, which should be thinned out to one or two as soon as it can be seen which are the best to leave.

Select List of Show Dahlias.

Acme of Perfection, primrose, 4 feet.	George Rawlings, dark maroon, 4 feet.
Alex. Cramond, shaded maroon, 3 feet.	Golden Gem, yellow, four feet.
Bessie Ford, rosy pink, 3 feet.	Herbert Turner, French white, 3 feet.
Burgundy, dark puce, suffused with purple, 3 feet.	James Huntly, purple, 3 to 4 feet.
Buttercup, bright yellow, 4 feet.	James Service, dark crimson, 4 feet.
Cardinal, scarlet, 3 feet.	King of Primroses, primrose, 3 feet.
Cecilia, pale yellow, 3 feet.	Lady Wimborne, deep pink, 4 feet.
Charles Backhouse, bright scarlet, 5 feet.	Memorial, pale rose, 3 feet.
Charles Lidgard, yellow, crimson edge, 4 feet.	Mrs Gladstone, soft pink, extra, 4 feet.
Clara, rosy peach, 4 feet.	Mrs Glassock, pure white, 4 feet.
Constancy, yellow and lake, 3 feet.	Mrs Shirley Hibbert, cream -shaded pink, 3 feet.
Criterion, rosy lilac, 4 feet.	Royalty, orange, 4 feet.
George Dickson, chestnut brown, 4 feet.	Sunbeam, buff, 3 feet.
	Toison d'Or, pure yellow, 4 feet.
	Vice-President, orange, 3 feet.

Select List of Fancy Dahlias.

Adventure, striped red, 3 feet.
Annie Pritchard, white, striped lilac, 4 feet.
Attraction, white striped, and spotted with purple, 3 feet.
Billy Button, buff, striped with maroon, 3 feet.
Charles Wyatt, deep rose-flaked crimson, 4 feet.
Duchess of Albany, orange, crimson stripes, 3 feet.
Gaiety, yellow, striped red, 4 feet.
Gem, rich rosy crimson, tipped with white, 3 feet.
Grand Sultan, buff, red stripes, 3 feet.
Hero, crimson, shaded with light puce, 3 feet.
Hugh Austin, orange scarlet, striped dark red, 3 feet.

Mrs Trisclton, crimson purple, tipped white, 3 feet.
 President Lincoln, buff, striped orange, 3 feet.
 Prince of Wales, orange, spotted and striped with scarlet, 4 feet.
 Professor Fawcett, lilac, striped chocolate, 3 feet.
 Purple Flake, purple, striped white, 3 feet.
 Rebecca, lilac, striped crimson, 3 feet.
 Regalia, lilac, striped and spotted with crimson, 4 feet.
 Sparkler, white, tipped with purple, 3 feet.

Select List of Dwarf Dahlias.

For a small collection those marked * are best.

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| * Alba floribunda, best white, 2 feet. | Marguerite Bruant, white, 2½ feet. |
| Captain Ingram, crimson, 2 feet. | * Pluton, fine yellow, 2 feet. |
| Carl Mendal, crimson, 2½ feet. | * Rising Sun, intense scarlet, large bloom, very effective, and comes early into bloom, 2 feet. |
| Cloth-of-Gold, bright yellow, 2 feet. | * Royal Purple, very free and effective, 2 feet. |
| Crimson Gem, glowing crimson, 2 feet. | * Scarlet Tom Thumb, best scarlet, 16 inches. |
| Gem of the Dwarfs, crimson, tipped with white, 2 feet. | * Zelinda, purple, 18 inches. |
| George Thomson, primrose yellow, 2½ feet. | * Zelinda, yellow, 20 inches. |
| John Wyatt, scarlet, 2 feet. | |

Single and Cactus Dahlias.

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Acquisition, crimson. | Huntsman, crimson. |
| Alba, or White Queen, white. | Laurezi (cactus), crimson. |
| Cochineal (cactus), dark crimson. | Lucy Ireland, rich magenta. |
| Como, pink. | Miss Mary Anderson, bright crimson. |
| Constance (cactus), white. | Mrs Hawkins, yellow. |
| Duchess of Westminster, white. | Nora, bright pink. |
| Ellen Terry, pale peach. | Rob Roy, bright scarlet. |
| Evening Star, bright crimson. | Sunbeam, deep yellow. |
| Firefly, orang scarlet. | Sunset, yellow, tipped with red. |
| Francis Bell, rosy purple. | Yellow Queen, yellow. |
| Harlequin, deep rose. | Zephyr, crimson and bronze. |

Achyrocline Saundersonii—1 foot to 15 inches.—A very effective silvery-foliaged plant for edgings, quite as white as *Cineraria maritima*, much more compact, and like the upright-growing *Santolina*. It can be wintered in a cold frame, and strikes freely under hand-glasses in summer and autumn, and in a temperature of 60° in spring. When well rooted, pot off into small pots in light rich soil.

Antirrhinums (Snapdragon)—1 to 2 feet high.—Some of these are remarkably showy, and desirable for mixed borders. They can be raised from seed sown in March for autumnal blooming the same way as Stocks; and to stand the winter for early flowering, they require to be sown and managed the same way as directed for biennials. Named sorts must be perpetuated and propagated from cuttings, which strike very freely both in autumn and spring in the same way as Verbenas. When rooted, pot or prick them into boxes or frames.

Admiration, yellow and bronze, striped with yellow.
Argus, yellow and crimson.
Avenir, yellow, mottled with crimson.
Bertha, striped and mottled with claret.
Bride, white and rose.
Canary, crimson and white.
Coronet, canary and crimson.
Eclat, white, striped with purplish crimson.
Fairy, white and rose.
Gazelle, sulphur white, striped with rose.
Goldfinch, yellow and crimson.
Harlequin, white, mottled with rose.
Hendersonii, white, with violet belt.
Hero, crimson.
Julia, yellow and crimson.
Le Grand French, white, striped with cerise.
Mayo, light yellow and crimson.
Model, bronze and purple.
Olga, crimson.
Phidias, white and crimson.
Premier, white and rose.
Regalia, yellow and bronze, striped with crimson.
Rob Roy, white and scarlet.
Sparkler, white and purple.
Stella, white and crimson.
Striped Unique, white, striped with crimson.
The Bride, orange, mottled and striped with red.
Virginia, pure white, splashed with rose.
Vulcan, crimson and yellow.
Yellow Boy, yellow.

Amaranthus caudatus (Love-Lies-Bleeding)—Crimson, 2 to 4 feet.—When well managed, this is one of the most imposing and striking-looking plants that can be grown for back lines and as single specimens. I have grown it in lines 4 feet high, with its crimson ropes pendent to the ground. To grow it well, and get it early to perfection, it should be sown in the beginning of April in a slight hotbed, very similar to the manner in which Celery seed is sown. It always does better sown in a slight hotbed than sown in boxes in heat. When about 4 inches high, it should be transplanted to its blooming position—well watered, and shaded by a few evergreen boughs, or by being covered with flower-pots through the day, for a short time. The soil should be deep and rich; and when it has arrived at its full size, a few of the leaves should be removed to show off its crimson racemes to advantage. Of course it succeeds very well sown in the open border in the end of April, but it never attains the same magnificence as when brought forward earlier.

Asters.—These are so very much improved, that they deserve more attention as autumn flowers. For mixed borders, and

even for beds and lines, they are very effective. They require to be sown at the end of March, either in a slight hotbed or in boxes in heat. They should be kept near the glass, and not over-watered till ready to handle freely, when they should, to do them justice, either be potted singly in small pots, or pricked off into frames two inches apart each way. When they begin to grow freely, give plenty of air, and keep them rather dry than otherwise to make them stocky. They do best in a warm situation, in rich soil, into which transplant with balls, and water, if the weather be dry, till they begin to grow freely. The bouquet varieties are especially neat and useful for cutting for vase and stand decoration.

Agathea *cœlestis*, *Pale Blue*, 9 inches—*A. cœlestis variegata*, *Variegated Foliage*, 6 inches.—Although this plant is not so much grown as it was at one time, it is worth enumerating and cultivating, and for some purposes deserves a place among bedding plants. It produces a very pretty effect by mixing it with Mangles' Variegated Geranium. Autumn-struck plants generally flower best. Cuttings should be put in pans or boxes in August, and in spring pot them off, and give them a little heat for fourteen days. The variegated form of this plant is rather shy of growth ; rich dry soil is most suitable for it.

Alternanthera *amœna*—*A. amœna spectabilis*—*A. magnifica*—*A. aurea nana*—*A. amabilis*—*A. amabilis latifolia*—*A. paronychioides*—*A. paronychioides major*—*A. tricolor*—*A. versicolor*.—These bright little and rather tender plants do not succeed in cold wet districts ; but in the drier and warmer parts of the country they produce very pretty, bright effects, especially in carpet-bedding, now so fashionable. Any one who has not a place somewhat warmer than an ordinary greenhouse cannot winter them successfully. But when they can be placed in an intermediate temperature they are easily managed. They strike as freely as a Verbena, and the stock can either be rooted in August and kept over in pans or boxes, or stock plants can be kept and cuttings taken in March, when they strike very rapidly in bottom-heat in a dung-frame or propagating pit. They should be potted off singly or pinched off in light rich soil in boxes, and kept warm till well established. Before putting them out—which should not be before the middle of June—they should be gradually and well hardened off. They like rich soil and plenty of water in dry weather.

Arundo donax variegata—4 to 8 feet.—This plant has been truthfully described as “the most stately and graceful of all known variegated grasses of the garden. It forms a robust, vigorous plant of majestic habit, with long, broad, elegantly decurved leaves 1½ to 3 feet in length, and 2 to 3 inches in width, picturesquely marked with broad silver margins their whole length. As a single specimen, it forms a very ornamental and diversified feature.” It is, however, from the height to which it attains, best for back lines, and as such it has a distinct and tropical appearance, while it is quite hardy: it thrives in any good garden soil, but does best in peat or loam heavily manured with leaf-mould. It is propagated by division of the root in spring.

Agapanthus umbellatus foliis variegatis—*Foliage 18 inches, blooms 2½ feet.*—Being a variegated form of the well-known *A. umbellatus*, it is all but hardy. When this plant becomes more plentiful and better known, it cannot fail to take a high position for beds. Its foliage is very lovely at all times, while it yields large umbels of blue flowers that last in bloom a long time. It is easily propagated by dividing the plants in spring, and potting them singly till well established, when it may be planted out early in May. It requires rich, rather moist soil to grow it to perfection.

Arabis lucida variegata (Golden Arabis)—3 inches.—This is probably the most lovely dwarf golden-leaved hardy plant we have. It is exceedingly useful for front lines and edgings. It is very easily propagated by division either in spring or autumn. Lift and divide it about the end of October, and plant it out either where it is to remain or in nursery beds in light soil, and transplant it in March. To get it in its finest dress, it should be grown in rather heavy rich soil, and allowed to remain undisturbed for a few years. It must not be allowed to flower, otherwise it never makes such fine foliage.

Arabis alpina variegata—A. mollis variegata—*Foliage, 6 inches.*—These two are similar to *A. lucida variegata*, only they are stronger growing, and the variegation is white instead of gold. Both are useful plants, either when white flowers are required in spring, or variegated dwarf foliage in summer and autumn. They all do well with the management recommended for *A. lucida*.

Ageratum mexicanum (Imperial Dwarf)—Countess of

Stair, Lively Lavender, 8 inches—Her Majesty—Swanley Blue—Cupid—Cannel's Dwarf—Lady Jane, Strong Grower.—These are very easily managed, and a few pans of cuttings struck in a close frame in September are sufficient to yield a large stock for spring propagation, which is exactly the same as for Verbenas. Where there is no convenience for spring striking, the whole stock must be struck in autumn. They winter very well in boxes; and in spring keep the plants well pinched in, as they are apt to become tall and slender. They flower best and longest in rich loamy soil.

Dell's Beet—Dark Crimson, 1 foot.—The foliage of this Beet, when quite true to name, is of a lustrous bronzy crimson, and in growth it is very regular and compact. I do not know of any dark-foliaged plant that is so generally effective, although some object to it simply because its roots are eatable. It thrives well in any ordinary garden soil. It should be sown the last week of April where it is to remain, and when 2 or 3 inches high thinned out to 10 inches between each plant. This variety does not run to seed, and it is much more effective than Perilla.

Bellis perennis aucubæfolia—6 inches.—On cool heavy soils, and in shady situations, this Daisy is well worth growing for summer edgings; but in dry soils it looks shabby in hot weather. It is a desirable plant for amateurs, being of course hardy and easily managed. I have seen it flower well in autumn; and, with its scarlet blooms and variegated foliage, it is an interesting little plant.

Cineraria acanthafolia—1 to 1½ foot.—This is a very ornamental plant, as silvery as *C. maritima*, and is of a much more compact and better habit. In this respect it ranks between *Centaurea ragusina* and *C. maritima*. It has been found slow in striking from cuttings in spring, and after they are rooted, slow growing for some time; but when once established, grows freely. It does with the same treatment as *C. maritima*, and is a very effective panel and vase plant.

Cineraria maritima—Silvery-grey Foliage, 1 to 1½ foot.—The superiority of *Centaurea ragusina* has somewhat eclipsed this very useful silvery-foliaged plant. The quickest way of getting up a stock of it is to purchase seed, and sow in pans, in light rich soil, the first week of February. Placed in a temperature of 65° to 70°, it vegetates in a few days. As soon as it forms

two rough leaves, prick it off into boxes 2 inches apart, and place it in heat again till the young plants almost meet in the boxes, after which it grows freely in a cold pit or frame. In this way it makes fine strong plants by the middle of May, and transplants safely even without any ball. It does not, however, get its best coat of silvery down the first year. The best way to get the plant in all its beauty is to propagate from cuttings in spring, choosing the twiggy side-shoots. By sowing the seed at midsummer, and keeping them till the next year before planting out, they become very white before the end of the season.

Carnation Duke of Wellington—Scarlet.—Very few Carnations are admissible as beds in positions where dense sheets of bloom are required for several months at a stretch. But such is the free-flowering habit of this variety, and its long season of blooming, that it keeps up a sheet of bloom from July till October; and it may be placed in any combination of beds in the flower-garden without fear of its becoming a blank. It is also excellent for cutting and bouquet purposes. For cultivation, see our remarks on the culture of Carnations at another page.

Cerastium tomentosum (Snow-in-Summer)—C. Biebersteinii—Silvery-grey Foliage, 4 inches.—This well-known lovely little hoary plant is one of the most useful we possess for parterre-work, and is also one of the easiest managed. A good practice is to bed out a quantity of it in reserve beds at the end of October. It is taken without any preparation, simply tearing it from the old plants and laying it in thickly like Box. It roots through the winter, and is transplanted in spring to where it is to remain. It can also be planted out in March, in the open beds, in single cuttings without roots; and by keeping it watered, if the weather be dry, it begins to grow very freely, and in this way it makes exceedingly neat lines. The single cuttings are dibbled in, 3 inches apart. It should never be allowed to bloom if required to be in fine foliage all summer and autumn. It succeeds in almost any sort of soil, and can be cut into any desired dimensions.

Clematis Jackmanii, Violet-purple—Prince of Wales, Lucy Purple—Lanuginosa nivea, Pure White—Lanuginosa candida, French or Tinted White—Lady Bovil, Light Blue.—These are the best varieties for beds. Of course a Clematis bed is so far

a permanent one that they bloom for years in succession, and do not bear moving frequently; so that in beds where a change is wished for yearly, they are not admissible. But they make such gorgeously effective beds that no garden should be without a few of them. The beds should be carefully prepared, and where the soil is either very sandy or clayey, it should be partially removed and replaced with loamy soil well enriched with manure, and should be at least 2 feet deep. In fact, a border that would grow Vines well is just the thing for bringing out the capabilities of Clematis. The young plants should be planted about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart each way, and if well tended they will cover the whole surface with bloom the first year, but of course not so densely as in after-years. They should be pruned in pretty closely every year after they have shed their leaves, and an annual top-dressing of rotten dung will keep them vigorous. In dry weather it is scarcely possible to over-water them if the drainage is good. They seem to like a damp climate, for in wet localities in Scotland they bloom continuously from July till November. They can be slightly raised by placing some twiggy branches on the surface of the bed.

Campanula carpatica (**Carpathian Bell-Flower**)—*Blue, 1 foot.*—A very useful edging hardy plant, which is easily propagated either by division of the roots in spring, or by seeds, from which it comes perfectly true. The seed should be sown in a temperature of 60° in February; and when large enough to handle freely, prick it off into boxes and keep it in heat for a few days, till it begins to grow freely; then turn it into cold frames, and plant out early in May in rich soil. This plant lasts a long time in bloom on heavy rich soils, but in hot situations and on light soils it is apt to succumb before autumn. The seed-pods should be picked off as they form, and it should be heavily watered occasionally in dry weather. It is a very useful plant for those who have no glass, as it is perfectly hardy, and easily increased by division. About the latter part of March the roots should be lifted, and the ground trenched and manured, and the roots replanted, and watered if the weather be dry.

Cheiranthus Cheiri (**Common Wallflower**).—For its sweetness, if for no other reason, the Wallflower should find a place particularly in mixed borders. On account of its being so easily managed, it is very useful for amateurs with little convenience for tender plants.

The plants are as easily raised from seed as a bed of Cabbage, sown either in rows or in beds on light garden soil. For summer and autumn flowering, the best time to sow is in the beginning of July. When about two inches high, prick them out into a nursery bed, in rows about 4 inches apart; here they may remain till the borders are dug in spring, when they should be lifted with balls, and planted where they are to bloom. By picking the seed-pods off as they form, the season of blooming is prolonged.

Select double varieties must be propagated by cuttings, and May and June are good times for putting them in. They strike freely under hand-glasses, in light sandy soil, in a shady situation. When rooted, plant them out into beds as recommended for seedlings. They will grow and bloom in very barren soil; but to have a long continuance of bloom, they must have rich dry soil.

Coleus.—It is a great pity these beautiful-foliaged plants do not succeed except in dry warm situations in the south of England, and even there few of the many varieties succeed well. Old *Verschaffeltii* is still the hardiest and mostly used. In Scotland, generally, they soon lose their beauty, and as the dews of autumn come on rot away. They strike most freely in bottom-heat, and an old plant or two will give hundreds of cuttings in heat in spring. They require a stove or intermediate temperature to keep them through the winter. Most of the now numerous varieties of Coleus are effective for a short time out of doors in warm seasons and places.

Chrysanthemum frutescens (**Marguerites**), *White*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet—*C. grandiflora*, *White*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet—*Etiole d'or*, *Yellow*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.—These are three large, white, single daisy-flowering looking plants, with elegant foliage—in the case of the first-named, of a glaucous hue—that are generally known as the Parisian Daisy, from their having been so much used in the gardens and parks of Paris. They are very continuous flowering plants. From June till far on in October they yield their pure-white blooms in great profusion, and are excellent for centres of large beds or in combination with such plants as Purple Dahlias, *Nepeta teucriifolia*, tall *Ageratum*s, &c.; and for shrubbery margins and recesses they are excellent. Being all but hardy, they strike under the same treatment as *Calceolarias*, and can be wintered with them and *Gazania* in cold frames. They are deserving of much more notice in this country than has yet been bestowed on them.

Chrysanthemum Sensation—*2 to 3 feet, but can be pinched and kept dwarf.*—A beautiful variegated-leaved Chrysanthemum, and most useful for the centres of large beds or back lines, as also for intermediate positions when kept pinched. A few old plants potted up in autumn yield abundance of cuttings in spring, and it strikes as freely as any common Chrysanthemum. It can either be pricked off into boxes when rooted, or potted singly into small pots. Moderately rich soil brings out its variegation best.

Dactylis glomerata variegata—*1 foot.*—A variegated form of a native grass, and one of the most useful edging plants we possess. It is most easy of propagation by division of the plants either in autumn or spring. It requires a rather heavy soil; but in this respect it is not very fastidious, and thrives in almost any soil, if rich. If the soil be poor, it is apt to get rusty-looking in dry autumns. It should not be allowed to flower. It bears clipping to keep it dwarfer. *D. glomerata variegata elegantissima* is said to be superior to this variety, but I have not yet seen it.

Fuchsias.—*Various Heights and Colours.*—Many of these are most beautiful border plants, and when grown as pyramids, are splendid for centres in beds. For amateurs, the hardy varieties, such as *Riccartonia*, are very useful, and stand the severest winters if their roots and collars are well protected with a little litter. *Fuchsia Meteor*, with its crimson foliage, makes a most effective bed in some places. It is as easily managed as any of the ordinary Fuchsias, and strikes freely in autumn and spring in a little heat. The beds should be made rich with well-rotted manure. *F. Carolina* is an excellent variety for planting out in beds as dwarf standards, it being a vigorous grower and free bloomer. *Fuchsia Vengeur*, with white corolla and red sepals, makes a good bed, and so does *F. Blanchette*. They all delight in rich loamy soil when planted out. *Golden Fleece*, lately sent out, is said to be fine. The hardy *F. Riccartonia* is very useful as a shrubbery plant; and in the case of those who have not much glass, it may be used for the centres of large beds.

Gnaphalium lanatum—*1 foot to 18 inches.*—A silvery-foliaged plant suitable for edgings, and perfectly hardy. It is very easily propagated by division in spring, and is whitest and most compact on dry poor soils. It bears pegging down, and should never be allowed to bloom.

Gazania splendens—*Orange, 4½ inches; and G. splendens variegata*.—Where these appear in their best dress, they are most effective plants, and most useful for various purposes. They are very easily propagated either in autumn or spring. In autumn they strike very freely, managed in all respects like yellow Calceolarias, and they can be wintered and managed in the same way. They strike equally freely in heat in spring; and it is a good plan to propagate half the stock in autumn, and top them for cuttings in March, and prick them off and manage in other respects like Verbenas. Of the two sets of plants, those struck in spring are preferable. They are most accommodating plants, and amateurs can easily strike them in boxes in August, placed out of doors, where they get the morning and afternoon sun, from which it is not necessary to shade. When rooted, place them in a hot sunny place till housing time, when they can be wintered in cold frames or pits where they do not get more than a few degrees of frost. Some have planted them on poor soil with the view of making them flower more freely, but they do best in rich soil when well exposed to the sun. They do very well in winter with “spare-room” treatment.

Humea elegans—*Brown, 5 to 6 feet*.—A half-hardy biennial, and very useful decorative plant, especially for back lines and centres to groups. The seed should be sown in May, and being very small must just be covered, but no more, with finely-sifted sandy soil. It will vegetate freely in greenhouse temperature; indeed, it comes up in the open air self-sown in light warm soils. Cover the seed-pan with a little moss or a pane of glass till the young plants appear; then place in the light, to keep from drawing. When fit to handle, prick off into pans or boxes. Pot off singly, when 3 inches high, into 4-inch pots, in which they will winter. In March shift into 7-inch pots, in which, by the middle of May, they make fine plants for planting out. It should never have more than greenhouse temperature. When planted out, the soil, if not very good, should be made up for it in pits, as for Dahlias, with half loam and rotten manure. In fine loamy soils, all that is necessary is to enrich and trench it.

Hollyhocks.—Splendid autumnal plants for planting in shrubbery borders or back lines to one-sided long borders. Unfortunately they have recently been all but extinguished in this country by a parasitic disease; and consequently, though

some nurserymen give lists of them in their catalogues, a healthy stock is at present very difficult to procure, and I cannot, from recent experience, include a list of sorts. I have generally used them in one-sided borders, by planting either alternately with *Humea elegans*, or in single colours by themselves, planted 18 inches apart. The small shoots, which can be had from the bottom of these in July, cut into pieces with a bud to each like a *Vine eye*, strike freely under hand-glasses in light, rich, sandy soil. When well rooted, they should be potted singly in 3-inch pots, in equal parts loam, rotten dung, and a little sand. They soon establish themselves, and can be wintered in cold frames where not subjected to severe frost, and kept dry. Some of the more tender sorts are all the better of being in warmer quarters through the winter. Old roots of scarce sorts may be lifted and potted, and forced in heat, like a *Dahlia*, for cuttings, which strike freely in bottom-heat. The best time to plant out is about the end of April. The ground should be trenched and heavily manured. They thrive best—at least continue longest in bloom, and give the finest bloom—in heavy loamy soils. They should not be allowed to grow very tall if fine blooms are the object. As lines for general effect, we top them at 7 feet.

Heliotropium Voltairianum, *Bluish purple*, 1 foot—**Albert Delaux**, *Violet rose*, 1 to 1½ foot—**Bruant**, *Deep blue*, 9 inches—*peruvianum*, *Pale blue*, 1 to 1½ foot—**Beauty of the Boudoir**, *Dark purple*, 1 foot—**President Garfield**, *Mauve purple*, 1 foot—*surpasse guascoi*, *Lilac*—**Jean Armour**, *Lavender*, 1 foot.—These are great favourites, and from their delicate perfume should always have a place in the flower-garden. Cuttings inserted in August root freely in a very gentle heat, and may be wintered in pans or boxes. They should be potted off singly in spring, and placed in heat till they fill their pots with roots. If planted out from the boxes, they suffer very much should the weather be dry at planting time. A few old pot plants wintered and forced for cuttings in spring, and struck the same way as *Verbenas* or *Petunias*, and potted off, make fine healthy plants. Indeed, spring-struck plants are preferable. All winter they like a little more than greenhouse temperature if wintered in cutting pots or boxes, especially *Beauty of the Boudoir*. They should not be planted out before the very end of May, and they do best in rich dry soil.

Iresine Lindenii, 1 to 1½ foot.—This is a very effective

crimson-leaved plant, and bears pinching to any desired height. It strikes very freely, and keeps best through the winter in a temperature of 55° to 60° in stove pots. But spring-struck cuttings are best, and can be propagated and managed like Verbenas. It likes a rich soil.

Koniga variegata—*Variegated Alyssum, 6 to 8 inches.*—An old favourite that holds its place well, and is most useful for ground-work and edgings as well as lines. A few store-pots propagated in autumn yield abundance of cuttings in heat in spring. In all respects it does with the same treatment as Verbenas. The soil should not be rich, or it will not be so prettily variegated.

Lobelia—*Perennial Herbaceous section, various, 2 to 3 feet.*—This is now a very interesting group of plants. Even old fulgens and cardinalis were splendid border plants of peculiarly rich colours, well suited for centres of large beds and mixed borders. Queen Victoria, of recent introduction, is a very brilliant variety. They are easily increased by division of the plants in spring. To grow them well they must have good rich soil.

Linum grandiflorum—*Brilliant Carmine, 1 foot.*—One of the most beautiful and useful annuals for beds. It produces large rich carmine flowers in great profusion. Sow about the end of April where it is to bloom. The seed should be steeped in water twenty-four hours before it is sown. When about 2 inches high, thin it to about 6 inches between plants. By picking off the seed-vessels the blooming season is prolonged. Dry, moderately rich soil suits it best.

Mesembryanthemum cordifolium variegatum—*Cream colour, 3 inches.*—This is a very pleasing, low-growing, mossy-looking, compact plant, very suitable for front lines, and for covering surfaces of beds for pin-cushion planting. It is very easily increased by cuttings at any time, and a few plants in heat during spring yield a large stock.

Nemophila insignis.—Where a splendid mass of blue is the object from July to October, this is a most effective thing. It quite eclipses Lobelia speciosa seen at a distance, and in cold localities it is perhaps superior to the Lobelia, especially when the latter is from seed. To have a fine bed of it in August and September, sow in the first days of June, and when well up thin out to 6 inches; when required earlier, it must be sown earlier. It does best in a dry soil.

Nierembergia gracilis—**N. rivularia**—**N. Veitchii**—*White, veined with Lilac, 8 inches.*—These slender-growing, delicate-looking plants are very useful for edgings and small beds. They strike freely in heat in autumn and spring. When rooted, they should be potted singly, or two or three in a 4-inch pot, so that they can be planted out with a ball; for if entirely shaken out, they take some time to recover the check. They flower most freely in hot sandy soils. In cold wet districts they do not flower well, but are suitable for the edges of vases and baskets.

Nepeta teucriifolia—*Bluish Lavender, 9 inches.*—Now that the tide of taste has fairly set in in favour of hardy plants suitable for bedding, it is curious that the merits of this plant as a bedder have not been publicly recognised, so far as I have seen. I have grown it in quantity for this purpose for the last seven years, and every year it gains more favour here. The individual flowers are certainly poor enough; but as a bedder it has everything to recommend it, so far as my experience has gone, on a moist soil—colour, habit, and duration, when properly managed; and, moreover, it is hardy as a willow. Its colour is beautiful and chaste in lines or masses, being a warm lavender or mauve colour, something like *Viola cornuta*, but with a shade of crimson in it. Its habit is dense and spreading, upright in the middle of the plant, and lying down on the soil all round like the variegated *Alyssum*. Its duration of flowering is from May to December without fail, and gathering in profusion of bloom and colour to the last. Its management is extremely easy, but it must not be left to itself, as herbaceous plants are generally. It is best raised from cuttings every year, the old plants being thrown away; and with half the kind treatment given to Purple King *Verbena*, it will flower longer, and will rival or excel it in show throughout the season. I put in a batch of cuttings in fine soil in the open border about September, in close nursery lines, and every cutting strikes before winter. In March we transplant the young plants to where they are to remain; or if that is not practicable until bedding time, we give them more room in the border, when they make nice plants by the middle of May.

Oxalis corniculata rubra—*Chocolate Foliage, 4 inches.*—A dwarf and almost hardy, chocolate-coloured, compact-growing plant, useful for various purposes, and very easily managed. It can either be raised from seed or by lifting a few plants in

autumn, and propagating and managing it like a Verbena. If raised from seed, a few plants in pots should be placed on a sheet of paper or cloth, as it bursts its seed-pods suddenly and scatters the seed about, and it is not easily got in the usual way of seed-gathering. Sow in March, in a hand-glass or in gentle heat, and prick off into boxes when large enough to handle. It is not easily lost when once it is introduced, as the seeds come up thickly the following year even on the walks, but too late to be effective in time; so it is necessary to sow it under glass. Amateurs may keep a few roots of it anywhere free from frost, and in spring they can be divided into many plants. To plant a bed thinly with any silver-foliaged plant, such as Pelargoniums, and then cover the surface with this Oxalis, produces a very pleasing effect.

Œnothera taraxifolia—6 to 8 inches.—Large white flowers opening in the evening, when they look very beautiful. It is very effective in mixed borders and round the margins of shrubs, where its flowers contrast in a lovely manner with their dark foliage. It is easily propagated by cuttings in autumn and spring, the same as Verbenas or Heliotropes; but the easiest way of getting stock is to sow seed in heat in February, and when it forms the rough leaves to pot singly in 3-inch pots, in which it makes fine plants by the middle of May. Unless well established when planted out, it is late of flowering.

Petunias—1 foot.—Although Petunias are not now so much used for beds, many of them are very useful, if not for beds, for planting against walls or singly in mixed borders. When in masses, in damp situations particularly, they are apt to damp off in patches in autumn. They flower best in moderately rich soil. For directions as to propagation and treatment, see Heliotropes.

Countess of Ellesmere, crimson rose.

Crimson Bedder, ruby crimson.

Crystal Palace Rose, rose.

Dr Hogg, purple.

Miss Amy, crimson and white.

Ruby, crimson, veined with violet.

Spitfire, dark plum, suffused with crimson; extra good.

Pentstemons—1 to 2 feet.—Hybridisers have effected great improvement in these of late years, and they are very showy border flowers. They are very easily increased by cuttings in August and September under hand-glasses, the same way as recommended for Verbenas, and can be wintered where they are struck, and transplanted in April. To increase scarce

varieties, the best way is to pot off when rooted, and place them in heat in spring, when they strike very freely in bottom-heat. The side-shoots, without bloom spikes, are best for cuttings. They require a rich soil, and generally speaking are quite hardy.

Adam Black, crimson, white throat, blotched with crimson.	Mauve Queen, mauve, white throat.
Agnes Laing, dark rose, white throat.	Mrs C. Patrick, purple, white throat.
A. Howden, rosy red, white throat.	Mrs Edwin Clark, crimson, white throat.
Andrew Kemp, ruby scarlet, red throat.	Mrs Henricq, scarlet, white throat.
Bridesmaid, French white.	Mrs James Laing, scarlet.
Beauty, light purple, pure white throat.	Mrs Q. Gordon, crimson, white throat.
Charles Smith, rosy crimson, white throat.	Mrs Walter Scott, rose, white throat.
Countess of Hopetoun, bright scarlet.	Painted Lady, rose, pure white throat.
Duke of Sutherland, scarlet, white throat.	Princess Louise, rosy red, white throat.
General McDonald, scarlet, white throat.	R. Dean, crimson scarlet, shaded purple.
George Sand, reddish purple.	Rev. H. Dombrain, rosy purple.
John M'Pherson, light blue, white throat.	Shirley Hibberd, salmon.
John Pearson, purplish mauve, white throat.	Stansfield Surprise, purple, white throat.
	The Lady, French white-tinged rose.
	Thomas Robb, purple, white throat.
	William Martin, striped crimson.
	William Paul, rosy crimson, striped with rose.

Phlox Drummondii—*Various, 8 inches to 1 foot.*—Since such a variety of colour has been obtained in Pelargoniums, this pretty plant and its varieties have not been so much grown. They are nevertheless very pretty, and deserving of a place in the garden. The seed should be sown the first week in March, in seed pans or boxes, in light rich soil. Place it in a temperature of 65°, and keep it regularly moist. As soon as the young plants can be conveniently handled, prick them off into boxes 2 inches apart each way. Keep them in a temperature of 65° till they have begun to grow freely, then harden off, and stop them when they grow to about 3 inches high. The stopping causes them to make lateral growths. Do not plant out till the end of May, and let them have good rich soil, and they will keep up a long succession of bloom. They must have a place where they are well exposed to the sun.

Perilla nankinensis—*Dark Chocolate, 1 to 2 feet.*—This annual derives its usefulness from the striking appearance of its dark, chocolate-coloured foliage. It is most effective in lines, and can be kept to any required height by being pinched. The seed should be sown in pans or boxes about the middle of February, in a temperature of 60°. When large enough to handle freely, it should be transplanted into boxes, as has been directed for various other things. If put in too thick, it draws,

and becomes weakly. Two inches each way is sufficiently thick. The soil should not be over-rich, as it has a tendency to grow very strong. It should be kept in heat till 4 to 6 inches high, and being tender, must be gradually hardened off. It makes fibry compact roots, and transplants well from the boxes. It should not be planted out till the end of May, and in late places the beginning of June. Soil moderately rich.

For those who have not command of artificial heat in spring, this is not a very suitable plant, as it requires heat to get it to a suitable size for planting in proper time; still it vegetates freely in the open borders in summer, and it might be tried in a warm corner of a greenhouse, sowing it in March.

Pyrethrum Golden Feather and its varieties—6 to 8 inches.—A dwarf, compact-growing, golden, fern-leaved-looking plant, most effective for dwarf lines and edgings, and in some localities far more effective than the best Golden Pelargoniums, being of a more dense and graceful growth. The best way to propagate it is from seed. Seedling plants grow far more freely than cuttings, make fine leaves, and have less disposition to run to seed. It can be sown in heat in early spring, and pricked off and managed as directed for *Lobelia speciosa*; makes fine plants for putting out in May; or it can be sown in the end of August in the case of those who have not command of much heat in spring, and wintered in a cool house or pit. The best way to get seed of it in cold localities is to keep a few plants in pots, and allow them to bloom early in the season. It likes moisture and manure in liberal doses.

Saponaria calabrica, Pink—*S. calabrica alba, White*, 6 to 9 inches.—This is a charming thing for little beds and edgings. Sow in gentle heat the beginning of April; when it can be conveniently handled, prick it off into boxes in moderately rich soil. Keep it in heat till it begins to grow freely, then harden off by degrees. When planted, be careful to preserve some soil to the roots, and water well should the weather be dry. It thrives best in a sandy loam moderately enriched.

Salvia patens—Blue, 1½ to 2 feet.—This is perhaps the most lively and intense blue-flowering plant we have; but in some soils, especially shallow sandy ones, it has the defect of dropping its flowers in dry weather, so that it is, under such circumstances, rather defective and ragged-looking. On better soils it is a desirable plant for large beds and mixed borders. In

lines mixed with yellows or whites it looks exceedingly well. It can be raised from seed sown in heat early in February, or the tuberous roots can be lifted and wintered like Dahlias, and started in heat early in spring. It strikes freely from cuttings. It can also be preserved by covering the surface of the border with litter or spent bark after the tops are cut down, as referred to in the case of Dahlias, and hence is a useful plant for amateurs.

Salvia fulgens and fulgens variegata—*Scarlet, 3 feet.*—These are very useful for back rows and mixed borders. They are easily propagated by cuttings in August and September in a close cold frame, and in spring in the same way as Heliotropes or Ageratums. When large plants are required, the old ones can be lifted and potted, or put close together in deep boxes. They should be cut down to within 6 inches of the soil when potted. Whether in store cuttings, pots, or as old plants, they are easily wintered in any place which is dry, and where frost can be excluded. They are not particular as to soil, and thrive in any common garden soil moderately enriched.

Sedum spectabile (fabaria), Dark Rose, 15 inches—*S. spectabile variegata.*—These are two of the most useful plants which our hardy herbaceous borders have supplied to the modern system of flower-gardening, though somewhat late of flowering. The variegated variety is most lovely from early summer till late autumn; while the original form is a most effective plant, from the beauty of its large oval glaucous leaves, and for eight or ten weeks in autumn its large dense corymbs of dark rose blooms are very effective. Either for rows, masses, or dotting on the pin-cushion style among dwarfer plants, they are very effective. Being perfectly hardy, and as easily propagated as a Daisy by division, they are everybody's plants. They like rich soil and moisture; and when required to bloom early, those who can do so have only to lift and pot a quantity, and forward them under glass,—a trouble they well repay. They are also excellent plants for late autumn, retarded in pots for the greenhouse.

Santolina Chamæeyparissus, 1 foot—*S. incana, 6 inches to 1 foot.*—Hardy plants, with silvery leaves, of neat and compact habit, and excellent for edgings in conjunction with dark-foliaged or flowering plants. They require liberal culture, and are easily propagated, in the same way as recommended for Verbenas, in autumn; but September is early enough for them.

Senecio argenteus.—A very dwarf hardy perennial, growing in neat tufts. It resembles *Centaurea candidissima* in miniature, but the plants are much more compact and dense, with silvery-white leaves, deeply lacerated; a very valuable addition to bedding plants. Propagated by division.

Scrophularia nodosa variegata—*Variegated Foliage, 1½ foot.*—This is likewise a hardy herbaceous plant, and very useful for back lines or edgings to comparatively tall-growing plants. It can be increased by cuttings in August, and by division in spring. To make it produce fine variegated large leaves, it requires rich soil and pinching to keep it from flowering.

Stachys lanata—*6 inches.*—A hardy silvery-leaved plant, suitable for edgings and lines; easily propagated in autumn or spring by division, and thrives in almost any sort of soil.

Stellaria graminea aurea.—A hardy golden-leaved chickweed which creeps and roots on the surface of the soil, and covering it with a thick carpet of gold. It is a useful plant for dwarf edgings, but is probably best adapted for carpeting the surface of a bed to be dotted with other plants. It increases as easily as *Cerastium tomentosum*, and in the same way.

Stocks — Intermediate Varieties — White, Purple, and Scarlet, 1 to 1½ foot.—Some of these are most gorgeous plants for beds and lines,—such, for instance, as the East Lothian scarlet, purple, and white Intermediates; and being so easily managed, they cannot be too strongly recommended. All that is necessary is to sow in fine rich soil under a hand-glass on a south border about the end of March. Sow thinly, and allow them to remain till large enough to plant out permanently. About the middle of May they are 2 or 3 inches high, and transplant well. Throughout August, September, and October they flower magnificently, and are often fine in November. If required to flower earlier, sow in February in heat, and transplant into boxes or frames, and plant out in the end of April. The singles should be lifted in September, and either potted or planted by the side of a south wall, where, with slight protection, they will winter and ripen their seed the following summer. Ten-week Stocks are not worth growing when these Intermediate varieties can be had true. They require a rich soil.

Tropaeolums—*6 to 15 inches.*—Some of these are very effective, and *Cooperii* and *Mrs Ellis* especially cover the ground with

a dense sheet of scarlet blooms that withstand wet weather exceedingly well. They can be raised from seed, but cannot be depended on for producing the same varieties. To prepare a store stock in autumn from which to propagate in spring, the cuttings should be put in towards the end of August. They root very freely in a gentle bottom-heat; and by potting them in 8-inch pots filled with rich soil, all but 2 inches of the top, which should consist of equal parts loam, leaf-mould, and sand sifted fine, it is not necessary to prick them off. Forced in heat in spring, they yield cuttings very fast, which can be struck like Verbenas. It is best to pot them off when rooted, for if shaken out at planting time they do not succeed so well. Those who have not means for spring propagation must of course strike the required number in autumn; but spring-struck plants do best. They all flower most freely in a poor sandy soil. Cooperii blooms freely under almost any circumstances. The following, except Canariense, Brilliant, Eclipse, and Bothwelliana, which are strong climbers, are best for beds. I know of no plants that cover a wall with such a perfect sheet of orange scarlet as T. Bothwelliana, and Dumfries House Seedling. A dwarf yellow-leaved, named T. ochroleucum, with bright golden leaves, is a fine dwarf edging plant.

Ball of Fire, scarlet.
Bothwelliana.
Brilliant, scarlet.
Canariense.
Cooperii, scarlet.
Eclipse, scarlet.
King of Scarlets, scarlet.
King of Tom Thumbs, scarlet.

Luteum improved, orange yellow,
and crimson spots.
Mrs Ellis.
Rose Tom Thumb, rose.
Vesuvius.
Yellow dwarf.
And others.

Thymus citriodorus lutea—*T. aureus lutea*—*Golden Variegated Foliage*, 6 to 9 inches.—These are most useful edging plants. They do best to be struck from cuttings annually. Being hardy, they strike readily in September in hand-glasses or cold frames, and should be planted out in spring. In selecting cuttings, choose those best variegated, otherwise there is a tendency to revert to the normal green type.

Tussilago farfara variegata—*Variegated Foliage*, 1 foot.—Perfectly hardy, and increases itself like a nettle or couch-grass, by running underground. Indeed, it is rather troublesome in spreading, and not easily eradicated once it gets a footing. It is very ornamental, and can be used with good effect in shady positions where other plants will not thrive.

It looks very well as an edging to a clump of ferns, or as a groundwork to plants with graceful foliage. Likes deep rich ground.

Tagetes signata pumila—*Orange Yellow with Brown Spots, 1 foot.*—One of the most useful annuals, with most wonderful powers of long-sustained and profuse flowering. Sow in the end of March in gentle heat, and when 2 inches high prick off about 1½ inch each way in boxes. It vegetates in a warm greenhouse in April, and is very accommodating. It flowers best in a dry soil not over rich; and on hot soils, where Calceolarias are prone to fail, it is an excellent substitute. It withstands drought and rain equally well.

Veronica speciosa variegata, 1 to 2 feet—*V. pumila variegata, 1 foot*—*V. Hendersonii, 16 inches.*—Among the prettiest of our silver-variegated plants, and not nearly so much grown as they should be. July and August is the best time to propagate in order to have nice stocky plants to plant out the following summer. Well-drained pots or pans may be filled with light sandy soil to within 3 inches of the top, then filled up with pure sand to receive the cuttings, which should be selected from the side-shoots, taking neither the strongest nor the weakest. They should be from 3 to 4 inches long. When inserted tolerably thick, as they are not subject to damp off, water well, and place in bottom-heat. When well rooted, pot off singly in 3-inch pots, or three or four in 5-inch pots. Keep close for a short time, and then harden off till fully exposed. They stand a few degrees of frost with impunity, and can be wintered in a cold pit where severe frost can be excluded. *V. candida* has fine silvery foliage growing close to the ground, with a profusion of spikes of bluish-purple flowers, lasting in bloom about a month. Easily increased by division in spring, and perfectly hardy.

Viola cornuta.—These lovely dwarf Violas have risen rapidly into favour within the last few years, and they deserve a place in all flower-gardens. Being perfectly hardy, they are among the very best things for those who have no convenience for raising tender plants. They are most easy to propagate, either by division of the roots or by cuttings. They strike freely in hand-glasses in light sandy soil in August and September; or when stock is scarce, they can be forced in spring and struck as directed for Verbenas. To have them in flower early in summer, autumn striking is the best; and for autumn blooming,

spring-raised plants are preferable. They like a moist rich soil, and do not keep up a continuous bloom in dry gravelly soils. Indeed, to grow them to perfection, they must be treated similarly to Pansies. They withstand any amount of rain, but are subject to die off in some soils, especially when not planted early. Some spurious varieties are in cultivation.

Admiration, purple.

Alpha, purple.

Cornuta Perfection, purple; fine.

Lady Diana, dark purple.

Lady Sophia, light reddish-purple.

Lutea major, yellow.

Mrs Bollock, white.

Perpetual Yellow, best yellow.

Robin Hood, violet purple.

Sovereign, yellow.

Tory, bluish-purple; fine.

Pansy Section.—Yellow Prince, Buttercup Yellow—Factory Girl, Lavender—White Bedder, White—Golden Bedder, Golden Yellow—Startler, Light Blue—Cliveden, Blue.—Violas have long found a place in masses in our spring gardening, but it is only of late years that their capabilities and merits in summer and autumn flower-gardening have been recognised and tested. There is not a doubt but Violas, like most other plants, succeed best in certain localities, and under certain peculiarities of soil and climate. Still, from what we have observed for several years past, we are of opinion that in nine cases out of ten they are not properly cultivated, and that in many instances where their blooming period is cut short by drought and hot sun, it is because they are not treated in a manner that enables them to compete with adverse climatal conditions.

To make Violas bloom continuously throughout the summer in the drier localities of the country, the ground should be as deeply worked and as effectively manured as a quarter that is intended to grow fine summer Cauliflower. Even in the wettest localities, rich deep soil is a condition under which they are most satisfactory and effective. And so striking and continuous are they as plants for massing in summer, that we know of no other class that will yield the same solidity and profusion of colour and bloom.

The way to develop their capabilities to perfection is very simple, and places them within the reach and enjoyment of all who can command hand-glasses or cold frames, and ordinary garden soil and manure. For summer and autumn blooming, the cuttings should not be put in too early. The character of the early cuttings is never such as produce free-growing and continuous-flowering plants. The very end of September or

early in October is the best time to propagate. Then is the time that, under the influence of cool moist nights, they produce plenty of young healthy shoots, near the necks or bottoms of the old plants. These small healthy growths that have never formed or produced a bloom-bud are the cuttings that root the most freely, winter with least care, and ever afterwards do the best, and bloom the freest and longest. It is undesirable to put in long cuttings with a shank and a dangling top. Two joints in the ground and two out of it are quite sufficient. They should be made in a cool shady place, and put in the frames and watered and shaded without being once allowed to droop. Any ordinary light garden soil will root them, but a mixture of about equal portions of loam, leaf-mould, and river-sand is best; and 5 inches of this soil, resting on a rather firm bottom, to prevent their sending down their roots deeply, and from which they can be removed in spring with a ball and all their roots, is preferable to a great depth of rich open soil. Kept close, rather moist, and shaded from bright sun, they root with scarcely one per cent of misses, and get well established before winter sets in. Plenty of air after they root is indispensable; and a slight covering over the glass in very severe weather is about all the attention they require till planted in spring where they are to bloom.

As can be gathered from what has already been said, the soil in which they are to bloom should be deep and rich; and under such treatment few plants are so effective for the same length of time, and at the same expenditure of time and labour. The end of March or beginning of April is a good time to plant out, according to the season and the state of the weather. They should be lifted with all the soil possible adhering to their roots; and if the weather be dry at planting time, give them a good soaking of water, after which they generally take care of themselves.

Vinca major variegata—*Silver-variegated Foliage, 1 foot to 15 inches.*—This is a very beautiful plant for permanent edgings, or even for masses. For lengthened effect it copes with the silver-leaved Pelargoniums, and being hardy it is everybody's plant. For mixing with purple Violas it is excellent. It strikes freely under a hand-glass in September, every two joints making a cutting. It bears the knife well to keep it to any bounds, and the more it is cut the more variegated does it become.

CHAPTER III.

WINTERING TENDER PLANTS IN COLD FRAMES—MANAGEMENT BEFORE PLANTING OUT—PREPARATION OF BEDS AND SOIL.

In many cases cold pits and frames are all that can be commanded for wintering tender flower-garden plants. There is sometimes an outhouse, spare-room, or bow-window that can be used as an auxiliary to a pit or frame. With such convenience, indifferent as it may be considered, and really is, it is astonishing how much can be accomplished by judicious management and earnestness of purpose.

In the construction of cold pits to be used for wintering such things as Pelargoniums, Verbenas, &c., the principal object to be secured is dryness, because damp is a far greater enemy to such plants, and one more difficult to combat, than frost. On this account, sinking below the ground-level should be avoided, unless the walls below ground be made perfectly water-tight by cement, and the bottom as thoroughly drained as possible. Indeed, it is a good plan either to pave or cement the bottom of the frame or pit, to prevent water rising by capillary attraction, in which case there must be holes for the escape of all moisture that may collect inside; and the foundation of the inside should be of open rubble, with a drain to take the water away. Pits sunk a little into the ground, and constructed in this way, are warmer than when raised above the ground-level. But I would rather have all above the level, and construct the walls hollow, enclosing a stratum of air, which is the best non-conductor.

One of the principal points necessary to success in wintering plants without the aid of fire-heat is that of preparing the plants in autumn early, and by the coolest system of propagation, as has already been recommended; but this is most especially applicable to the case of those who have no better

convenience than cold frames or pits to winter their plants in. Early propagation allows of the plants being exposed to the open air, and enables them to become thereby robust; and their growth is thus ripened or solidified, so that they are not so susceptible of injury from either damp or cold. They of course become well rooted, which is another requisite to success.

When it becomes necessary to place the plants in the pits in order to be secure from autumn frosts, the lights should be drawn off by day when the weather is dry, not a drop of water should be allowed on the leaves, and they should be kept dry to the drooping - point. This brings on a state of maturity before winter, calculated to stand a damp, cold, confined atmosphere, and the absence of light, with the least possible injury. In placing the plants in the pit, do not overcrowd them. The pots should be washed clean; and where the leaves of such as Pelargoniums are crowded, thin out some of the largest of them.

Some dry loose material, such as hay or straw, should be in readiness, as winter approaches, for covering up with in case of severe frost, and some of the same material should be packed round the sides of the pit. But for this avoid anything likely to heat and prematurely excite the plants by a rise of temperature. When thick coverings over the glass become necessary, the material should, if possible, be perfectly dry, and shaken on as loosely as possible; as the more loosely it lies, the more air, the best non-conducting medium, it contains. If over the loose dry material some light covering, such as strong oiled calico, can be thrown, it will prevent cold winds from penetrating, and keep the hay or straw dry.

When it becomes necessary, from severe and continuous frost, to keep the glass covered up for a few weeks at a time, and when, perhaps, the thermometer inside the pit would indicate a few degrees of frost, great caution is necessary in uncovering and exposing the plants to light and air when the weather changes suddenly to a thaw. To uncover suddenly, under such circumstances, exposes them to such a sudden reaction as will prove far more destructive than a degree or two of frost. The covering should not be touched till the temperature inside has risen a few degrees above freezing, and then it should not be removed all at once, but gradually. Plants are living things, possessing all the susceptibilities of the most perfect and delicate organism, and are as subject to injury from sudden and extreme changes of light and heat as is the human

frame. Many never think of this, or if they do, are apt to forget it; and so soon as it thaws, off goes the covering, and the plants are injuriously affected even by the sudden flood of light; and if they have been slightly frozen, they are ruptured by a too sudden thaw, and mould and rottenness follow. Frost should not be allowed to creep in if possible; but if it does, it should be allowed to creep out, not suddenly expelled.

The great points, therefore, in wintering plants where fire-heat cannot be applied are—first, to keep the plants dry and in as complete a state of rest as possible all the latter part of autumn and winter; secondly, when it becomes necessary to cover up for a length of time from severe frost, the covering material should be dry and loose; thirdly, when thaw takes place, do not uncover at once, but gradually, and not till the thaw is complete.

All winter watering should be avoided beyond what is necessary to preserve life; and it is much better to have plants at the drooping-point than the least over-wet. This is equally applicable to plants wintered in spare rooms, and, indeed, even in greenhouses where fire-heat can be used. It is astonishing how little water is sufficient in winter for flower-garden plants, and especially Pelargoniums, which are often ruined by late propagation and over-watering in winter. Variegated Pelargonium cuttings in 8-inch pots on shelves often go without water for weeks at a time, and look splendid, although so dry that some would think they would be starved.

I do not wish it to be inferred from these directions that structures of any description, unheated by artificial means, are recommended for wintering any of the plants enumerated, except those which are all but perfectly hardy. For, from long experience, I am convinced that, in the course of years, heated pits or low span-roofed houses prove cheaper than cold pits, when the expense of coverings, breakage of glass, and the loss of plants are considered; and therefore I would recommend all who have bedding plants to winter to provide themselves with a heating apparatus, which can now be done very cheaply.

Management of Plants before being Planted Out.—That all flower-garden plants, whether propagated in autumn or spring, should be well hardened off, in order to their wellbeing after being planted, is a point of management which will no doubt be assented to by the merest tyro. I am, however, persuaded that starvation is often substituted for “hardening off.” It is not a very uncommon thing to meet with Verbenas, Calceo-

larias, and Pelargoniums, &c., in small pots exposed to the full blaze of the sun, and all the influence of cold drying winds in April and May, with the view of making them hardy. Under this treatment the plants become stunted and wiry, and when planted out in such a condition they stand still a long time before they commence to grow freely: the tissues of the plants are so dried up and contracted, that midsummer passes before they make a start into healthy growth.

If, instead of exposing small pots to the full sun and wind for weeks, they are shaded from the sun during the hottest part of the day, or else turned out of their pots into beds of light rich soil, they present a very different appearance by the middle or end of May. Where the accommodation for plants is not far removed from the flower-garden, and where that accommodation is limited, I would suggest that those plants which have been recommended to be potted off when rooted, should, as soon as they have filled their small pots with roots, be turned out of these and planted in frames or temporary pits, in soil composed of equal parts loam and leaf-mould with a little sand.

There are great objections to matted balls in tiny pots; and when plants are potted into pots that are less than three inches wide and the same in depth, the turning-out system that has been recommended above obviates the evil arising from small pots, and at the same time saves trouble in watering, and produces far finer plants. Besides all this, it admits of the necessary amount of exposure for properly hardening off, without stinting and starving the plants. But even under much more favourable circumstances they should never be exposed to cold cutting winds, even though accompanied with bright sunshine, the effect of which is, as already indicated, to dry up and stunt the young plants. It is much better during such weather to keep the lights on, merely giving air to prevent the opposite extreme. A good plan, in the case of those who have to turn plants from under the protection of glass during the cold winds of spring, is to stretch some strong calico tightly about a foot above the plants, and let it remain so constantly. The plants get a fair share of light through such a covering, while they are protected from drying winds, and, if tightly stretched, the calico throws off rains also. Any additional night covering required can be applied over it.

In the directions for propagating, it has been recommended to prick off the great majority of plants from the cutting and

seedling pots either into frames or boxes. This system calls for much less labour and room at first; and in managing the plants up to the time of planting, much less labour is required to produce strong healthy growths. Where the accommodation is limited, and at a distance from the flower-garden, the movable boxes afford many advantages in spring management; and when to be finally moved to the flower-garden, it can be done speedily, and with no injury to the plants.

Throughout the month of April and early part of May, plants managed in this way usually make rapid progress, but an evil quite the opposite of stunting must be guarded against,—namely, that of the stock becoming drawn and weakly. To prevent this, they must be freely exposed during fine weather; and when the lights are put on for the night, air should be left on. The soil should be kept in a medium condition of moisture; just enough of water to keep the plants steadily growing and healthy should be given. The quick-growing things, such as Verbenas, Calceolarias, &c., should be frequently looked over and stopped,—not allowed first to make long straggling growths, and then pinched severely back, but be regularly attended to, and have the mere points of the growths pinched off. Every sign of green-fly must be checked by the usual method of fumigating with tobacco smoke; for if once this insect is allowed to overrun the plants, they rarely ever thrive so well afterwards; and before planting out, such plants as Calceolarias, Verbenas, &c., that are subject to green-fly, should be fumigated, if there are the least signs of the fly to be seen.

When it becomes necessary to move plants from the protection of glass to temporary places, where all the protection they can receive is that of being covered with mats or canvas, they should be well established and hardened off previously. The position chosen for such temporary protection should not be shaded, although well sheltered. If placed in a position where they get no sun for weeks before being planted out, they become tender and weakly; and when ultimately planted out in the full sun, they invariably get scorched, lose their leaves, and are sadly checked. This is more especially applicable to Pelargoniums of the variegated class, but to all it is very injurious.

Flower Beds and Borders.—It is considered a settled point with experienced flower-gardeners, that the majority of the plants now used for long-continued masses of bloom are as

exhausting to the soil, and require to have as good a foundation laid for their culture, as many or most of our vegetables ; and although, in treating of the propagation of the various plants recommended, reference has been made to the soil that suits them best, I think it a matter of very great importance that the principles of good cultivation, in so far as the preparation of the beds is concerned, should be specially noticed. What has been already stated in connection with individual plants bears more, and sufficiently as a general rule, on the application of manure, and the nature of the soil, than on its preparation.

There are good reasons for fearing that the miserable appearance of many a villa and cottage flower-plot owes its origin to the idea that our present flower-garden plants do not require careful cultivation, such as would be expected to produce good crops of vegetables ; consequently I wish to give prominence to the fact, that in order to produce fine healthy plants, and a long-sustained array of bloom in the great majority of the plants used, it is indispensably necessary that the beds be well drained, deeply worked, and well manured. To this rule there are, of course, exceptions in the case of some plants, concerning which I have, in treating of them individually, indicated a contrary course of treatment, in regard to manuring especially.

Few crops are more exhausting to soil than masses of Verbenas, Heliotropes, Calceolarias, &c. ; and the unsatisfactory appearance which these frequently present is as often referable to the want of liberal treatment as to anything else. Jethro Tull was not far from the truth when he propounded that deep draining and deep cultivation were all that was needed to produce good crops ; certainly such conditions lie at the foundation of all good culture, and are nowhere more applicable than in the flower-garden. An accumulation of water about a bed of flowers is productive of evils that will thwart the efforts of good management in all other respects : it will keep down the temperature of the soil, prevent the natural action of the atmosphere, and lessen the chances of getting the soil pulverised and sweetened. Every flower-bed that is wet should therefore be well drained, as the first step in successful flower-gardening.

As to deep cultivation, the benefits derivable from it are so many that it would be difficult to enumerate them all. It gives a greater degree of openness to the soil, so that the roots can penetrate it more easily, and in dry seasons go down where the soil is more moist, and escape to a greater extent the evils

of drought. In wet seasons the superabundant water escapes more freely to the drains or subsoil. Many other benefits might be referred to, but these are sufficient to show that deep cultivation is of much importance in flower beds and borders. I make it a rule to trench, every other year, all beds under my care. This is done in winter, and a rough surface left exposed to frosts ; and the beds are forked over and thoroughly pulverised before planting-time.

The extent to which manure is to be applied must be regulated by the nature of the soil, and dryness or wetness generally of the locality. Where the soil is naturally shallow, or light, or sandy, it is greatly improved by having a quantity of heavy loamy soil incorporated with it. The best manure for sandy soil is cow-dung which has been in heap for at least twelve months, and has lost its rankness ; the next best is old, well-rotted hotbed manure—that is, stable-dung well decayed ; but for heavy loamy soils, well-decayed leaf-mould is preferable. These manures should be applied when the beds are trenched in the course of the winter, and incorporated well with the staple. All rank or partially decomposed manure should be avoided ; and when well-decomposed manure cannot be had, spread it over the surface of the beds, and let it lie exposed for a month or six weeks to the air before digging or trenching it into the soil. Bone-meal is an excellent manure for the majority of flower-garden plants ; and a sprinkling sufficient to whiten the surface of the soil, and well mixed with it, is enough. This is a convenient and effective manure in the case of owners of small gardens, who may have a difficulty in getting the other manures referred to. The flower-gardener who has a deep, rather light loamy soil that he can trench from 2 to 3 feet deep, and a dry subsoil, has a great advantage over others who have either a shallow poor soil, or one that is wet and clayey. It is scarcely credible to those who have not seen it, how gorgeously most plants grow and bloom in deep light loam, resting on a dry bottom—which should be the standard to be guided by.

Owners of small gardens particularly have great disadvantages to contend with where their soil is naturally bad. Generally they cannot easily get their few flower-beds either entirely remade or ameliorated where the soil cannot be wholly replaced. Clay is more effectually improved by burning the subsoil, and mixing it with the best of the surface soil, than by any other means. The method of doing this is detailed in a subsequent chapter. Road-grit or light sandy soil added to it will also

improve it ; and when soil is sandy and poor, the subsoil should be removed, and heavier soil mixed with the best of the natural soil. It need scarcely be said that, when the soil is naturally unsuitable, the most effectual way of remedying the evil is to entirely remove it to the depth of 20 inches or 2 feet, and replace with two parts fresh loam and one part decomposed leaves or leaf-mould. Where the rainfall is great, and many things, particularly Pelargoniums, grow too much to leaf, the soil should be raised more above the ground-level, and of course manure should be more sparingly applied.

CHAPTER IV.

ORNAMENTAL-FOLIAGED PLANTS.

Plants suitable for planting as Single Specimens, and for planting in Groups in sheltered places in the Summer and Autumn Flower-Garden, and that can be mostly wintered in a Greenhouse.—The whole of these thrive well in a soil composed of equal parts turf-loam, with a fourth part peat, a fourth part leaf-mould, and about a sixth part of the whole of sand.

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| <i>s</i> <i>H</i> <i>Acanthus lusitanicus.</i>
<i>H</i> <i>Acer negundo variegata.</i>
<i>H</i> <i>Acuta latifolia maculata.</i>
<i>Agave americana.</i>
<i>v</i> <i>Agave americana variegata.</i>
<i>Agave dasylirioidea.</i>
<i>v</i> <i>Agave medio-lutea.</i>
<i>v</i> <i>Agave striata.</i>
<i>Agnostis sinuata.</i>
<i>Aloe glauca.</i>
<i>Aralia Brownii.</i>
<i>Aralia dactylifolia.</i>
<i>Aralia heteromorpha.</i>
<i>Aralia papyrifera.</i>
<i>Aralia reticulata.</i>
<i>Aralia Sieboldii.</i>
<i>v</i> <i>Aralia Sieboldii variegata.</i>
<i>Araucaria Cookii.</i>
<i>Araucaria Cunninghamii.</i>
<i>Araucaria excelsa.</i>
<i>Araucaria Rulei.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Areca Baueri.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Areca lutescens.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Areca rubra.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Areca sapida.</i>
<i>H</i> <i>Artemisia annua.</i>
<i>H</i> <i>Arundinaria falcata.</i>
<i>H</i> <i>Arundo conspicua.</i>
<i>H</i> <i>Arundo Donax.</i> | <i>v</i> <i>Arundo Donax variegata.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Aspidistra lurida.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Aspidistra lurida variegata.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Baconia caudata.</i>
<i>Bambusa falcata.</i>
<i>v</i> <i>H</i> <i>Bambusa Fortunei foliis niveis vittatis.</i>
<i>Bambusa nigra.</i>
<i>Bambusa viridis glaucescens.</i>
<i>Beaucarnea glauca.</i>
<i>Beaucarnea recurvata.</i>
<i>Caladium esculentum.</i>
<i>Canna Annei superba.</i>
<i>Canna discolor.</i>
<i>Canna discolor floribunda.</i>
<i>Canna erecta hybrida.</i>
<i>Canna expansa.</i>
<i>Canna géant.</i>
<i>Canna major.</i>
<i>Canna metallica.</i>
<i>Canna musæfolia hybrida.</i>
<i>Canna nigricans.</i>
<i>Canna robusta.</i>
<i>Canna rubra perfecta.</i>
<i>s</i> <i>Canna rubra superbissima.</i>
<i>Canna rubricaulis.</i>
<i>Canna Sellowii.</i>
<i>Canna Warczewieczii.</i>
<i>Canna zebrina coccinea.</i>
<i>Centaurea argentea.</i> |
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| <i>Centaurea gymnocarpa.</i>
<i>Centaurea ragusina.</i>
<i>Chamæpeuce diacantha.</i>
<i>Chamærops excelsa.</i>
<i>Chamærops Fortunei.</i>
<i>Chamærops humilis.</i>
<i>Chamærops palmetto.</i>
<i>Cineraria acanthafolia.</i>
s <i>Cineraria platanifolia.</i>
<i>Clethra arborea.</i>
v <i>Clethra arborea variegata.</i>
<i>Cordyline indivisa.</i>
<i>Cordyline longifolia.</i>
v <i>Coronilla glauca variegata.</i>
<i>Corypha australis.</i>
x <i>Cycas revoluta.</i>
<i>Dasyllirion glaucum.</i>
<i>Datisca cannabina.</i>
<i>Datura arborea.</i>
<i>Doryanthes excelsa.</i>
<i>Dracena angustifolia.</i>
<i>Dracena australis.</i>
<i>Dracena Boerhavii.</i>
x <i>Dracena brasiliensis.</i>
x <i>Dracena congesta.</i>
<i>Dracena draco.</i>
x <i>Dracena ferrea variegata.</i>
x <i>Dracena Guilfoylii.</i>
x <i>Dracena marginata.</i>
x <i>Dracena terminalis versicolor.</i>
x <i>Dracena rubra.</i>
<i>Dracena Veitchii.</i>
<i>Echeveria glauca metallica.</i>
<i>Echeveria metallica.</i>
<i>Echeveria rotundifolia.</i>
<i>Eucalyptus globulus.</i>
v <i>Eurya japonica latifolia variegata.</i>
v <i>Farfugium grande.</i>
x <i>Ferdinandia eminens.</i>
x <i>Ficus Cooperii.</i>
x <i>Ficus elastica.</i>
x <i>Ficus microphylla.</i>
<i>Fourcroya longeva.</i>
x <i>Gneona pumila.</i>
x <i>Gneona Scottiana.</i>
<i>Grevillea robusta.</i>
<i>Griselinia macrophylla.</i>
<i>Gunnera scabra.</i>
<i>Gynerium argenteum.</i>
v H <i>Iris foetidissima variegata.</i>
x <i>Latania borbonica.</i> | <i>x</i> <i>Latania Jenkinsiana.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Monstera deliciosa.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Musa Cavendishii.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Musa ensete.</i>
s <i>Nicotiana wigandoides.</i>
<i>Paulownia imperialis.</i>
v <i>Panicum plicatum.</i>
<i>Phoenix dactylifera.</i>
H <i>Phormium tenax.</i>
v <i>Phormium tenax variegatum, various.</i>
<i>Polymnia grandis.</i>
v <i>Rhipis flabelliformis.</i>
<i>Rhopala corcovadensis.</i>
<i>Rhopala Jonghei.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Rhopala magnifica.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Ricinus albidus magnificus.</i>
<i>Ricinus communis.</i>
<i>Ricinus Gibsonii.</i>
x <i>Ricinus lividus.</i>
<i>x</i> <i>Ricinus Obermanii.</i>
x <i>Ricinus sanguineus.</i>
<i>Ricinus viridis.</i>
v <i>Salvia argentea variegata.</i>
<i>Sansevieria angolensis.</i>
x <i>Sansevieria fulvo cincta.</i>
<i>Seafortia elegans.</i>
s <i>Senecio Ghiesbreghtii.</i>
s <i>Solanum macrophyllum.</i>
<i>Solanum marginatum.</i>
<i>Solanum pyracanthum.</i>
<i>Solanum robustum.</i>
<i>Solanum verbascifolium.</i>
x <i>Thrinax parviflora.</i>
x <i>Tupidanthus calyptatus.</i>
<i>Udhea bipinnatifida.</i>
<i>Verbesina gigantea.</i>
<i>Vitis heterophylla.</i>
x <i>Wigandia Caracasana.</i>
x <i>Wigandia Wygenii.</i>
<i>Yucca alo-spica.</i>
<i>Yucca aloifolia.</i>
v <i>Yucca aloifolia variegata.</i>
H <i>Yucca aloifolia cornuta (concava).</i>
v <i>Yucca filamentosa variegata.</i>
<i>Yucca filifera.</i>
H <i>Yucca flaccida.</i>
H <i>Yucca gloriosa.</i>
H <i>Yucca gloriosa glaucescens.</i>
H <i>Yucca recurva pendula.</i>
v <i>Yucca quadricolor.</i> |
|---|--|

Those marked **H** are hardy; **x**, require the temperature of an intermediate house; and those marked **v** have variegated foliage; **s**, those that are easily raised from seed. Of course the cultivation of such plants to any great extent is not practicable, except where there is a considerable amount of glass, and not at all in the case of amateurs who may have only one small

vinery or greenhouse, or even both. Yet many of them can be raised annually from seeds, or be propagated by cuttings in spring from a forced plant of each variety. Among those which are very effective, and that can be got up in this way, are Cannas and Ricinus. The former of these, if sown early in February, and pushed on in heat, make large plants in 6-inch pots before the beginning of June. The same applies to the Ricinus, which can also be sown in autumn, and, wintered in a small state in a warm greenhouse, makes fine plants the following season. The roots of Cannas can be kept over the winter as easily as potatoes, and with as little trouble, by lifting and packing them in moderately dry soil in any shed or outhouse where frost cannot reach them. In spring they should be started and grown on, similar to a Dahlia. The Cannas are available in this way in the case of those who may not have the best nor the most ample resources. Then, there are such effective things as Nicotianas, Wigandia Caracasana, Polymnia grandis, Ferdinandia eininens, Senecio Ghiesbreghtii, Solanums, &c., which can either be raised from seeds annually, or propagated from an old plant or two where they can be afforded room, and where a strong top and bottom heat can be commanded to propagate with in early spring. Managed in this way, and grown on in heat till the middle or end of May, they make stout plants, which in good rich soil and sheltered situations grow into large specimens the same season. These few kinds, in conjunction with hardy Yuccas and the other hardy plants included in the foregoing list, would help to give variety, and be an interesting feature in every garden where the climate can be termed moderate, and the shelter is sufficient to protect them from winds.

As will appear from the directions given for arranging these plants in beds and borders, we are very partial to planting them as panel and centre plants in beds and long borders, because it is then that their character and beauty are best seen, and they give relief to heavy masses of colour.

It must not, however, be supposed that, although nearly all the plants we have enumerated are as hardy as the general run of summer bedding plants, this order of gardening can be carried out with success anywhere, except where they are well sheltered from high winds. This of course applies to the quick-growing, soft-wooded, and large-leaved plants; and we would warn those whose gardens are not favoured with sheltering boundaries, that all their attempts will be labour lost: for although, when fresh

and healthy, such plants are very effective, they are most hideous when torn and tattered with the wind. In all exposed places, plants, such as Yuccas and Aloes, that are stiff and not affected by winds, and such things as *Dracæna australis*, *D. cordyline*, and *D. draco*, &c., the leaves of which yield but do not tear or break, should be chosen. *Ficus elastica* we find to stand winds very well, its leathery foliage fitting it for rough weather. Where the flower-garden proper is too exposed to use the more easily injured plants, then sheltered and partially shaded nooks in recesses by the sides of pleasure-ground walks can be selected as spots suitable for groups or single specimens, as the positions suggest. These will give variety and interest to such resorts, and contrast well with the surrounding vegetation.

In all cases it is necessary, in preparing such beds, to make certain of thorough drainage; for though the quick-growing soft-wooded varieties require an abundant supply of water to cause them to expand their foliage well, they are impatient of stagnant moisture, which sours the soil and keeps it cold. A few barrowfuls of broken stones placed loosely in the bottoms of the beds, and blinded over with smaller ones to keep the soil from mixing with them, is a method that should be adopted in cold clayey soils. A good proportion of the soil in the beds should consist of half-decayed stable-manure and leaves, mixing in some turfey loam, or, where such cannot be had, ordinary garden soil, to give it stamina. The beds should be well elevated above the surrounding surface, finishing them in a convex shape, which presents the greatest surface of bed to the sun, and gives scope for grouping plants that are used for gracefulness of outline in the most telling way. In the south of England, Cannas have been found to live over the winter in dry beds of soil, with a covering of dry litter over them to keep frost from them. Our own experience, and that of others in Scotland, justifies us in saying that it is shelter from cutting winds, an open rich soil, and a good supply of water, that are the chief conditions of success in the culture of such plants, and that bottom-heat is of less consequence if these conditions be secured. In the summer of 1867 we planted some *Solanums*, &c., on the north side of a yew hedge, in some peaty soil, without any preparation whatever; and although the sun never touched them the whole season, they made growths which we were not prepared to see under such circumstances.

Plants that are, strictly speaking, warm stove-plants, are purposely excluded from the list given, because the wintering

and use of such plants must of necessity be limited, as compared with those which can be wintered in a greenhouse. We are, however, convinced that some of our stove-plants, such as Crotons, Marantas, Caladiums, &c., would succeed in the more favourable parts of Great Britain better than is generally supposed, provided the shelter be complete, and the plants properly hardened off before being turned out. Stove-plants succeed best when plunged in their pots, so that they can be lifted and housed in autumn without receiving a severe check. There are many such plants in our stoves, which, when they become too large for the accommodation, might, instead of being thrown away, be made to play a good part in cosy nooks for a summer before being doomed to the rubbish-heap. Such plants as these, as well as greenhouse Yuccas, Dracænas, Palms, &c., when well rooted, should receive a shift early in spring, so that their pots may be tolerably well filled with roots by the 1st of June, and able on that account to resist high winds and other vicissitudes of weather better than if shifted just when plunged outdoors. In plunging them, a vacuum should be secured under each pot, so that water may get freely away when applied. But in this matter it is best to plunge in light, open, warm soil, in which there is less chance of injury from flooding rains.

Where there is not convenience for the home propagation and culture of the soft-wooded and quick-growing varieties, that require stove-heat to propagate and push them on in spring, such can now be purchased very cheaply, and are found priced in leading nurserymen's catalogues; so that a few of these, in conjunction with hardy and greenhouse plants, are within the reach and enjoyment of a great many; and we have proved these plants to be quite as hardy as the Pelargonium. Indeed, in very dry soils Cannas will stand the winter left in the ground, and protected from frost; but they are safest lifted and stored. In wintering such plants in a greenhouse, they should be very cautiously supplied with water at the dead of the year: just enough should be given to prevent their flagging, but no more. The drier they are kept to a certain point, the more likely they are to winter successfully. When growing quickly in heat in spring, they delight in rich soil and a plentiful supply of water.

Many of the plants that have been recommended for sub-tropical gardening cannot be regarded as in themselves beautiful, more particularly some of the soft-wooded things, such as Nicotianas; and preference should be given to plants

with graceful outlines, such as the greenhouse Dracænas, and some of the Yuccas and Ferns, a list of which will be given. What, for instance, can rival in gracefulness of outline and habit large plants of Dracænas, such as *D. australis*, *D. draco*, and *D. cordyline*, and above all, the hardy *Chamærops*, *Yucca recurva pendula*, and others? The Arundos are beautiful and hardy subjects, and far before many of the common-looking soft-wooded ones. It is not necessary to praise the Tree-Ferns, for one plant of them is preferable to a score of the soft and easily injured leaved plants. However, such aristocratic plants as these require a goodly amount of room to winter them in, and turn them out in fresh condition in spring; and hence the desirableness of a selection of commoner and quicker-growing things, that can be raised yearly from seeds or cuttings.

It was in 1859 that we made the first attempt at breaking up flat surfaces of colour by mixing in bolder-growing plants. The materials at command were of the humblest description, and consisted of small plants of Holly and Coniferæ. The whole of one group of beds was planted with Gladioli, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, and while in bloom the effect was considered remarkably beautiful; and even after the flower-spikes were cut away, the sedge-like leaves gave a decided feature to the beds. In the course of the last ten years very much has been achieved in this direction. As can be seen by reference to the lists given, the number of really fine plants which have become available for this style of garden decoration has swelled into numbers and variety sufficient to satisfy all classes; while many plants, at one time considered unequal to our summers outdoors, have proved to be of luxuriant growth when properly cared for.

In the remarks which we have made regarding the adaptability of many plants for outdoor decoration over a wider part of the kingdom than has hitherto been supposed practicable, and also regarding the preparation of the soil and bottom-heat, we are borne out by a communication received from Mr Sorely, gardener to John Russell, Esq., Mayfield, near Falkirk, where, for years, many tender plants have been planted and plunged outdoors for a few months in summer. The district where this liberal patron of horticulture, aided by his enthusiastic gardener, has carried out with fair success this style of gardening, is one where the climate is so unfavourable to the general bulk of flowering plants, that few of them are planted, because they do not yield a sufficient amount of bloom

to make them effective. In consequence of this, fine foliages—such as are produced by gold and silver Pelargoniums and other plants—are used for ribbon and panel borders. On this account I am the more anxious to relate the manner in which such plants as we are now discussing have behaved in by no means a favourable climate; and I will consequently quote from the communication with which I have been kindly furnished from Mayfield:—

"These noble-leaved plants and graceful forms appear to be the missing link in flower-gardens; and although it will take time to become general, it has been proved here that there is no necessity for so much preparation in the matter of soil and bottom-heat as we read of as being necessary. Our chief enemy is wind, not the want of bottom-heat. A great number of the plants used require a deal of water, and artificial watering cools the soil beyond its ordinary temperature. The plan we have adopted to reduce the watering to a minimum, and husband the moisture in the ground, is to make up the compost in which the plants are plunged or planted in of littery horse-dung, open peat, and half-rotten leaves, surfacing the whole with an inch or two of common soil. The beds are formed in a convex form; and this presents more surface to the sun, and throws off flooding rains, which prevail in this district.

"The more prominent plants we have used are Agaves, plain and variegated, in large force, which stand from May till October; Aralia papyrifera, *A. Sieboldii*, *A. Brownii*, and *A. microphylla*. These have been plunged in pits filled with peat, and they did remarkably well. Caladium esculentum grows to a noble showy-leaved plant, and draws the attention of every visitor. All the Australian plants of Dracænas grow faster outdoors than under glass. We have also tried the stove varieties, such as *D. ferrea*, *D. terminalis*, *Monstera deliciosa*, and even they have done surprisingly well. Variegated Maize, I must admit, has fairly beat us for the last two seasons. We planted it out, mixed with Dracænas—good strong plants, from 1 to 3 feet when planted—and the effect was most charming; but it will not stand wind, and consequently got so unsightly that it had to be removed." [Our own experience proves, that to grow this plant it requires a place where winds cannot reach it, or it will never succeed.] "Ficus elastica and *F. Cooperii*, which contrast well with each other, have succeeded well. Chamaerops Fortunei, Seaforthia elegans, and all the Australian Palms that we have tried, do remarkably well, and are very effective. Dicksonia antarctica has withstood eight degrees of frost uninjured. Phormium tenax variegatum has a bright future before it in this style of gardening. The new Japanese Euonymuses, both the gold and silver variegated, are perfectly beautiful, and will stand our ordinary winters. Eurya japonica latifolia variegata is a great beauty. The new seedling Aucubas are very striking, and make leaves here a foot long by 6 inches across, and some of them are beautifully serrated. I must not for-

get to name a sport from the old Aucuba—*A. latifolia maculata*. It puts the brightest-coloured Croton quite out of court; but it requires to be grown in a pot or tub, and kept under glass in winter, with plenty of subdued light, as, if it gets much sun, it is not so fine. Coleus Verschaffeltii does ordinarily well. The showy Begonia rex and its varieties I have planted out in quantity, and in a shady place it made fresh leaves freely. It is a great pity that *Musa Cavendishii* is so easily injured with the wind: it makes leaves freely outdoors, but the wind tears them very much. The green Cyperus grows like grass planted out, and is very ornamental."

These, with Cannas, are the bulk of the more tender things which, nearly 500 miles north from London, have succeeded, as before described, in a climate where Pelargoniums are very little planted for their blooms. Besides these, Yuccas and other graceful and more hardy plants have been used with good effect. Mr Sorely further states: "All these have succeeded beyond our expectations, and would have done much better in 1867 (the coldest summer for forty years in Scotland), had it not been for eight or ten days of almost winter weather we had in July, with the thermometer ranging from 45° down to freezing at night." Surely this record, which came to hand after we had written of our own experience in so adverse a season as 1867, ought to encourage a larger adoption of this style of gardening. We do not advise the use of many of the coarse rhubarb-looking plants recommended by some, but rather such plants as the greenhouse Palms, Yuccas, and Dracænas, a score of plants of the perfectly hardy *Yucca recurva pendula*, than which few plants are more graceful, as many *Yucca aloifolia variegata*, and some few Tree-Ferns, *Arundo Donax variegata*, and *A. conspicua*, to say nothing of the many others: these alone would add a charming feature to outdoor gardening.

Ferns suitable for Single Specimens or Groups, in sheltered places, in Summer and Autumn, and that can be wintered in a Greenhouse.

Alsophila australis.
Alsophila excelsa.
Cyathea dealbata.
Cyathea medullaris.
Cyathea Smithii.
Dicksonia antarctica.

Dicksonia squarrosa.
Lomaria gibba.
Lomaria zamiefolia.
Neottopteris australasica.
Todea barbara.

These noble Ferns can be placed outdoors in summer; and in partially shaded and sheltered places, what can look more beautiful? The Dicksonias, in particular, are most useful, and

when from 3 to 4 feet high, make splendid objects in the centres of beds of flowers ; or as panel plants in long borders, alternating with such plants as *Yucca aloifolia variegata*, they are very effective. Of course such aristocratic decoration presupposes ample resources under glass. A very good imitation can be carried out by the amateur who does not possess much glass, though of course in a much more diminutive way. Let such prepare pits of soil in their borders or beds, by removing the natural soil, and replacing it with a mixture of rotten leaves, road-grit, and a little common garden soil, and plant the common Shield-Fern *Lastrea*, of which the varieties of *Filix-mas* and the Lady-Ferns are the most suitable. When well cultivated in this way, they remain in full verdure till the beginning of winter, and are very elegant. These, alternating in borders of flowers with the hardy and very elegant *Yucca recurva pendula*, produce a very pretty effect ; and such plants are within the reach of all. Amateurs who have plenty of time can even produce a very good imitation of the Tree-Ferns by scooping out the stem of a rustic piece of tree, leaving the bark on, and filling up with a rich vegetable soil, and planting these *Lastreas* ; or a large drain-pipe set on end, and made rough and rustic-looking with a little Roman cement and shelly gravel, can be substituted for the tree. With good strong stools of *Lastreas* planted in these and kept well watered, a very good imitation of Tree-Ferns can be made. The *Lastreas* are most suitable for this purpose ; and all of the following Ferns, which are perfectly hardy in most localities, are suitable for planting in the centres of beds of flowers :—

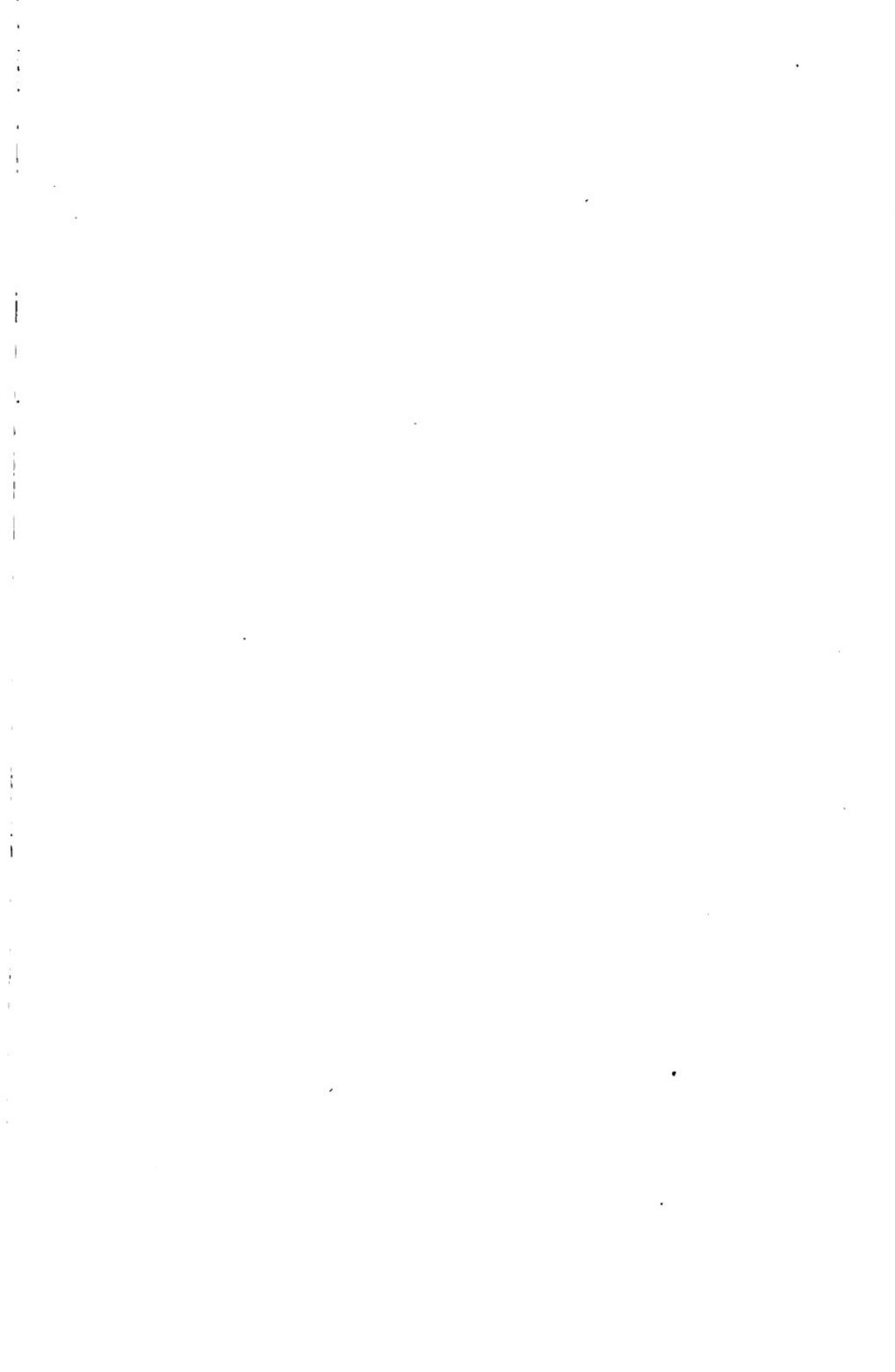
- Athyrium Filix-femina corymbiferum*, 1½ foot.
- Athyrium Filix-femina Fieldiae*, 2 feet.
- Athyrium Filix-femina thysanotum*, 2 feet.
- Lastrea dilatata*, 1 foot.
- Lastrea Filix-mas*, 2½ feet.
- Lastrea Filix-mas cristata*, 2 to 3 feet.
- Lastrea Filix-mas cristata angustata*, 2 to 3 feet.
- Lastrea Filix-mas cristata polydactyle*, 2 to 3 feet.
- Lastrea marginalis*, 1½ to 2 feet.
- Lastrea Thelypteris*, 1½ foot.
- Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern), 3 to 4 feet.
- Osmunda regalis cristata*, 2 to 4 feet.
- Polystichum angulare polydactyle*, 2 to 3 feet.
- Polystichum angulare proliferum*, 1 to 2 feet.
- Polystichum angulare proliferum Woolastonii*, 2 to 2½ feet.
- Polystichum Lady Hope*, 2 to 3 feet.
- Scolopendrium vulgare crispum* (requires shade), 1 foot.

CHAPTER V.

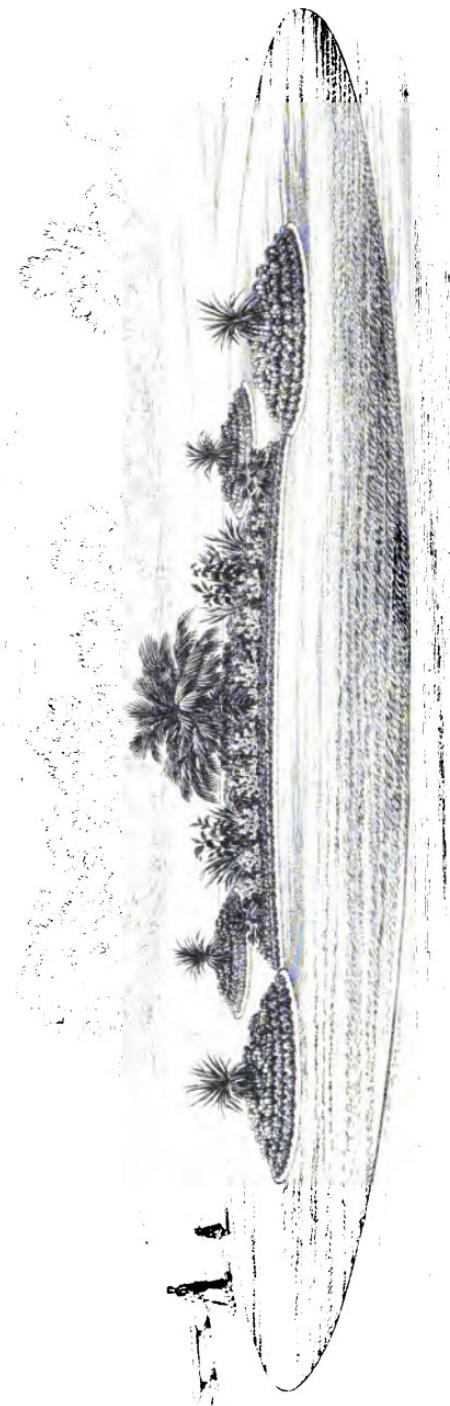
PICTURESQUE BEDS.

WHILE we differ entirely from those who have of late so unsparingly and sweepingly condemned both the principle and details of that system of flower-gardening generally termed the grouping or bedding system, we are perfectly sensible of the baneful results which arose from the too exclusive application of the resources and energies of gardening establishments to the one phase of flowering-gardening, beautiful and most desirable as we hold it to be. While we admire the skilful grouping of the various coloured flowers and foliage, we were among the first to point out the defects of flat surfaces and monotonous outlines, and to attempt breaking these up into what shall, by way of distinction, be called at least an approach to the picturesque. This may, perhaps, not be the best term by which to denominate or characterise such beds, but it is the most appropriate we can think of.

What is here wished to be impressed is the desirability of fostering and still further extending the taste for the more picturesque grouping and distribution of such plants as we now possess in very considerable abundance and variety suitable for outdoor embellishment, and a select list of which is given at page 83. To group these plants, such as Yuccas, Palms, &c., in dense masses and in formal beds, by way of breaking up the monotony of our flower-gardens, might to a certain extent remedy that evil; but such a manner of disposing of these plants can never give their beautiful outlines anything like justice, nor would it be much less deserving of being charged with the evils complained of in the grouping of flowering plants. Formal groups of plants such as are here referred to would, to far too great an extent, conceal their peculiar beauty and grace



Bed of Picturesque Plants



of outline, which can only be enjoyed when they stand in bold relief to plants of different habits and stature from themselves. There can be no question that more of an artist's skill is required to carry out this style of planting effectively than has hitherto been brought into play by any colour-massing that has yet been attempted. It involves not only the cultivated arrangement of colours, but, what is of more importance for the effects required, the arrangement of outline also. It is also our opinion, that to work out graceful combinations and produce picturesque effects, forms and combinations of beds different from those suitable for parterre-gardening are not only desirable, but indispensably necessary. Treating of this matter, we desire to say in passing, that it is difficult to take up the free-and-easy ways of ever-varying nature, and apply them amidst the formal outlines and surfaces forced upon us by the majority of gardens. A great deal is said about copying nature as the most desirable style; while it may not unjustly be said of the many attempts to copy nature which are to be met with, that they are a sad burlesque and libel on the unerring hand that guides nature in all its ways. He would be a bold authority who would venture to assert that nature does not teem with beauteous forms and grouping—indeed, that all its results are not such. But most gardens are surrounded with plenty of nature's inimitable arrangements of plant life; and for the sake of variety, we want something different inside our gardens, to mingle its beauties with the smooth velvety lawn, the glittering walk, the statue and the vase, and that shall at least help to alleviate the monotony which too much prevails.

It has been stated that the style of gardening which we desire to indicate cannot well be carried out in beds of the shapes commonly met with in gardens. Plate VIII., which has been engraved from a photograph, will help to illustrate what is intended, better perhaps than much writing. Oblong, and all beds approaching to that shape, are not well adapted for such grouping, as viewed from all points. Circles, of course, are capable of being made interesting and graceful by almost any principle of planting properly detailed; but still not in themselves, to our mind, sufficiently removed from what I shall term a one-sidedness to meet the want. Plate VIII. is what is sometimes termed a hollow square, terminating in circles at each corner. It stands by itself in a circle of smoothly-kept grass, and forms the centre of a flower-garden in grass and

gravel, and is approached by four very broad gravel walks—the four circles of the bed pointing to their centres. The whole bed is considerably raised above the ground-level, and the surface of it is shaped to correspond with its ground-plan. The centre of the bed is full, and it sweeps away from each corner like a wave. The circles are raised conically. In the centre of the bed, as will be observed, is a large plant of *Chamærops Fortunei*, round the base of which is a dense circle of *Sedum spectabile*, with its glaucous leaves, and, in autumn, its reddish-pink flowers. In the centre of the four circles are match plants of *Yucca aloifolia variegata*, and each circle is filled with a group of large plants of *Echeveria metallica*, banded with a double row of Golden Feather Pyrethrum. A little inward from the junction of the circles with the body of the bed are dwarf plants of *Corypha australis*. In the centres of the curves, on each side of the Palm, and 3 feet from the margin, are moderate plants, at right angles, of New Zealand Flax and the India-rubber plant—the whole surface of the body of the bed being planted with *Iresine Lindenii* and *Centaurea ragusina* alternately; while the Golden Feather Pyrethrum extends all round as a margin, and, from its bright, golden-yellow, ferny-looking leaves, gives a distinctness to the outline of the ground-plan of the bed when viewed from a distance. It will be remarked that all attempts at elaborate design or detail in the carpeting of this bed are avoided, because it is conceived that such would not have harmonised with the extreme simplicity, yet boldness, of the disposition of the picturesque plants which give character to the bed. And besides, we have never yet seen elaborate designs in planting that appeared anything else at a distance than a confusion. Except the *Iresine*, India-rubber plant, and *Echeveria*, all the plants employed in this case will bear 10° or 12° of frost with impunity, and may be exposed in windy situations, as they are not liable to be torn by a tolerably severe lashing. In sheltered situations, and in more southern localities, a host of the more tender plants, classed among subtropicals, can be used with fine effect; and there are many other plants quite as suitable for the less genial parts of our island as those represented in this bed. Few plants are more fountain-like and graceful for a centre, or even for the four corners, than *Dracæna draco*, and especially *D. australis*; and *Seaforthia elegans* is a Palm that does very well outdoors in summer. Moderately tall plants of *Dicksonia antarctica*, the lovely outlined *Yucca recurva*, the American Aloes, green and

variegated, the green and variegated New Zealand Flax, the Musas, and many others, do well outdoors all summer. The last named, however, must not be exposed to high winds, or their leaves get torn. In sheltered warm places, the more tender Dracænas and Palms, such as Latanias and Arecas, Aralias, and a host of other things, may be employed, the beauty of which is only seen when standing alone, or surrounded with dwarfer plants with habits distinct from themselves, such as many of the succulent plants treated of at page 98. It requires, in planting such beds to be effective, to select well-grown plants, diverse yet elegant in habits. Where it is thought desirable to increase the variety, two kinds of plants, in match pairs, can be put in the circles—such as a specimen plant of American Aloe in two, and a weeping plant, say a Yucca or a Dracæna, in the other two circles, all of which contrast well with Ferns in the body of the bed, and with a Palm in the centre. Smaller plants of Aloe can be grouped in the circles round the central plant, and the body of the bed covered either with variegated Dactylis or Polemonium *cæruleum* variegatum; and the edging all round, composed of Echeveria metallica, or some of the tall dark-green *Aeoniums* or *Sempervivums*, makes a very good group. When a variegated plant is used as a groundwork, in the circles especially, it is desirable to have a dark central plant; and when a dark ground, a variegated central plant. This contrast brings out the whole more effectively, especially when the group has mostly to be viewed from an eminence.

In the warmest and most sheltered parts of the country, many of the more tender Palms than those we have referred to can be plunged out in similar beds to these, and the more tender Dracænas, especially such as may have become too large for the glass-houses. The same may be said of Crotons, Ficus, and many others enumerated in our list of these plants. And in large beds of these, the groundworks—when tall plants are used as the most prominent objects—can be composed of stronger material, such as the most dwarf of the Cannas and Solanums, and the large massy foliage of Caladium esculentum. But for a plant of moderate height, there are few that bring out the grace of weeping or wavy plants so well as a groundwork of large plants of the Echeveria and *Sempervivum* tribes. On the other hand, there is an abundance of hardy plants available to those who have no glass-houses to bring forward and winter the more tender ones—viz., the hardy Yucca, the Gyner-

ium, the Arundo, the Phormium, not to mention any of what may be termed the more coarse and herbaceous things, which, though most useful and effective, are less constantly so than the persistent-leaved plants.

We have seen attempts at interspersing flowering plants in the same bed with plants such as we are now treating of; but we must say, that to produce effective combinations by such means must be one of the matters yet to learn, or be improved upon, to be satisfactory. Of course this must be decided by the taste and judgment of the owners and managers of gardens. Beds of a character to justify the heading of this chapter, to our mind, require to be composed of peculiar forms rather than of gay colours, especially as the object to be aimed at is not only beds of intrinsic beauty in themselves, but such as will throw more grace and beauty of outline, where there is perhaps more than enough of colour without those features. It will be remembered that in former pages we have recommended the use of single specimens of such elegant plants for the centres of flower-beds, and this has been carried out with the best effect. But the two orders of beds are so entirely different, both in their character and intention, that we have no wish to modify the one recommendation by the other. The single central specimen foliaged plant in a bed of flowers of large dimensions tells as effectively there as anywhere that it can be placed; but in beds where the object is to quietly bring out all that is possible of the striking outline and beauty of a number of individual plants in one bed, we would certainly exclude flowers if there were any other place to be had for them.

There are two reasons for thus recommending that these ornamental and striking plants should be planted in select variety, at easy distances in large beds, as a rule, in preference to grouping them more closely together, without any intervening groundwork of other plants. One is, that the individual beauty of the majority of such plants as are recommended can only be exhibited when standing clear from any other plant that competes with them in stature. The other is, that there are few gardens indeed that can afford space in which to rear and grow sufficient numbers to constitute dense groups. There can be no doubt as to the bold and massive appearance in extensive grounds of tall Cannas, Aralias, Palms, Yuccas, Caladiums, and suchlike plants. Where there are resources and accommodation to produce such masses, and

gardens of sufficient extent and so sheltered as to warrant such a style of planting these, few features are more desirable and noble-looking. At the same time, it would be simply ridiculous to introduce such features into cramped and unsheltered gardens in most parts of the kingdom. Then, again, few things look more forlorn-like than these plants do if not in rude health, and so grown as to exhibit their foliage fresh and untarnished. Consequently we recommend the system of planting represented by Plate VIII., and the choice of plants with foliage which are most calculated to stand the general tear and wear of a season outdoors, amongst which there are to be found the very best and least troublesome of their class. A few of these in good and perfect condition, and more thinly planted, are better fitted to please the eye, and give relief to formal gardening.

As it is conceived that, in gardens and grounds of small dimensions, such a bed as is represented by Plate VIII. may not be so convenient, reference will be made to the circular bed (fig. 1, p. 101) as a picturesque one, although it is principally intended to illustrate the grouping of succulent plants:—

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Tall plant of <i>Dracæna australis</i> . | 4, 4. <i>Agave americana</i> , or <i>Yucca aloifolia variegata</i> . |
| 2, 2. <i>Chamærops Fortunei</i> . | |
| 3, 3. <i>Phormium tenax</i> . | 5, 5. <i>Dicksonia antarctica</i> . |

The groundwork may be of *Centaurea* or *Cineraria maritima*, with an edging of Dell's Beet or *Iresine*, then a row of *Echeveria metallica*, finished with Golden Feather Pyrethrum.

Another way,—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Large <i>Chamærops</i> . | 4, 4. <i>Yucca recurva</i> . |
| 2, 2. <i>Yucca aloifolia variegata</i> . | 5, 5. <i>Corypha australis</i> , or other dwarf Palm. |
| 3, 3. <i>Cordyline</i> or <i>Dracæna indivisa</i> . | |

The groundwork may be a dense mass of *Echeveria metallica* edged with *Polemonium cæruleum variegatum* or *Centaurea*, and finished with *Echeveria secunda glauca*.

Similar combinations, with the different plants suitable for this style of grouping, might be multiplied to any extent; but such example is enough to show the principle we wish to inculcate.

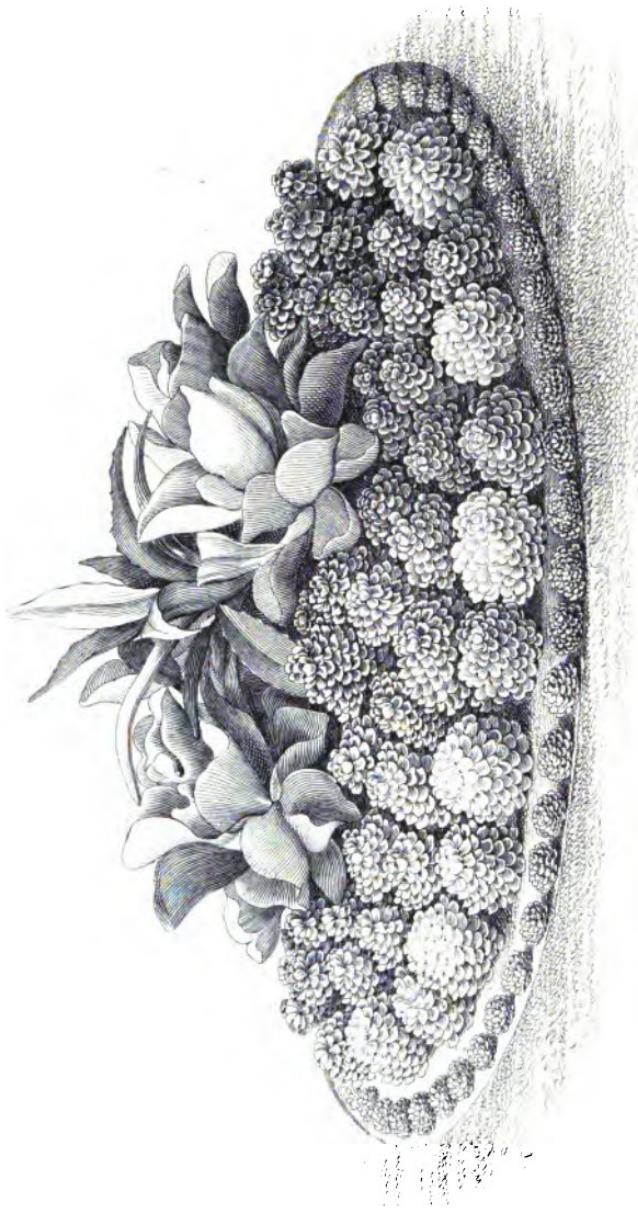
CHAPTER VI.

BEDS COMPOSED OF SUCCULENT AND CURIOUS-LOOKING PLANTS—
CARPET-BEDDING.

THIS is a style of grouping which now claims a considerable amount of attention. It has much to recommend it to popular favour. It has a character quite distinct from other methods of grouping, and the plants are themselves singularly distinct from such as have absorbed so much of our care and resources. They are, moreover, from their stiff and singular appearance, to our mind scarcely admissible in the same beds with ordinary bedding plants, remarkable chiefly for their profuse and brilliant flowers. Unless, indeed, it may be in some cases as edgings to flower-beds, we recommend that a series of beds be entirely devoted to themselves. There is so much character and singularity of appearance about these plants, that, when nicely arranged, they never fail to prove interesting, and attract a large share of attention. Besides this, their characters are most distinctly displayed when they are planted thinly on a carpeting formed of many of our most singular-looking and perfectly hardy alpine plants. The succulent is an extensive tribe of plants. Those in the appended list are all capable of being wintered and grown in a cool greenhouse, and consequently more suited to the masses than stove succulents, many of which, however, can be plunged outdoors for the summer months with impunity. A few hundreds or scores of these plants, according to the capacity of gardens, can be wintered in a small space, while the dwarf carpet plants named are, with but one or two exceptions, perfectly hardy, and in themselves very lovely and interesting. But it is particularly when these two classes of plants are associated in the same beds, that their characters appear the most distinct and interesting.



Bed of Succulents suitable for small gardens

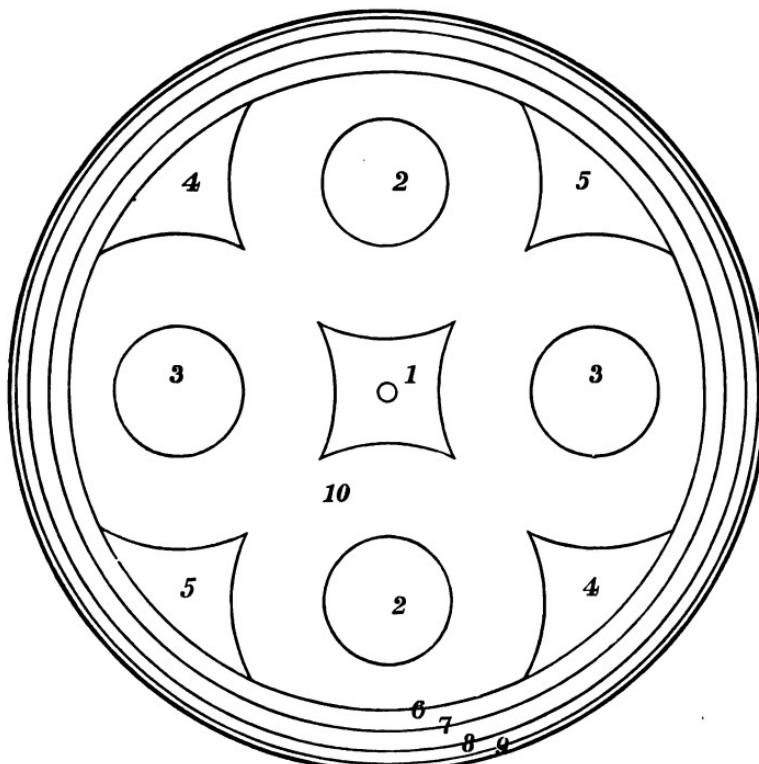


In small gardens, where only a bed or two can be devoted to these plants, we would recommend the more natural way of grouping them. What I wish to be understood by this is, that a select assortment of single specimens be planted in a bed according to their height and habit. Take, for instance, a circular figure, such as Plate IX., which has been taken from a photograph of a small bed intended for amateurs and others with comparatively small resources. Here are a few plants, of diverse habits, arranged in a manner which made a much more interesting and striking-looking small bed than is possible to represent on paper. The bed was considerably raised above the ground-level. The centre plant was a variegated American Aloe, and it was surrounded by *Echeveria metallica*, the ground betwixt which was covered with *Sedum aizoideum variegatum*. The plants surrounding this centre group were chiefly composed of *Echeveria secunda glauca*, with a few *Pachyphytum* mixed in, while the edging was a line of the pretty hardy *Saxifraga rosularis*,—the whole surface of the ground among the dwarf *Echeveria* being densely covered with the quaint rosette-looking *Sempervivum californicum*, which the photograph failed to reach, but which formed quite a feature when the bed was looked down upon. The bed looked natural and easy, giving variety and uniformity combined in a small space ; and consequently the manner of its make-up we recommend for small resources. For larger gardens, that can afford to grow such plants by the score and hundred, a series of beds set apart for this order of plants could not fail to be most interesting. Each bed might contain a few varieties, in greater numbers, of each of these taller and grotesque-looking plants ; while each can be afforded a carpeting or under-growth of a suitable colour and character, so as more conspicuously to bring out their different hues and habits. For instance, the low-growing, snowy *Antennaria tomentosa*, and close glaucous *Sedums* and *Saxifrages*, would bring out the dark-green colour and striking appearance of some of the *Echeverias*, *Sempervivums*, and lovely *Aeoniums*, and *vice versa*. The fine, dark, grassy green of *Sedum lividum* brings out the white and distinct *Pachyphytum bracteatum*. The massy, sturdy-looking *Sempervivum giganteum* would display itself beautifully in the mossy - looking *Mesembryanthemum cordifolium aureum*, or even on a carpet of the more common and hardy *Cerastium tomentosum* or Golden Feather Pyrethrum. Many of the *Aeoniums* and *Sempervivums* grow to a considerable height,

having strong stems surmounted with a large table-looking rosette of beautifully-formed leaves, and can therefore be associated—the dark greens—with groundworks of the dwarfer and more glaucous-looking Echeverias and Sempervivums; while for the carpet work for the more dwarf *Aeoniums*, &c., what can be more interesting than the glaucous Sedums and the silvery Saxifrages? The dark chocolate, fine-cut leaves of the *Oxalis corniculata rubra* bring out the light greens and dove's-neck-looking colours of the paler Echeverias and *Aeoniums*, such as *A. arboreum variegatum*, and small plants of variegated Aloes. Indeed we scarcely know of any class of plants which affords material and scope for more interesting combinations than the plants comprised in the two lists which we append; and their numbers might be multiplied fourfold, by taking stove succulents and many other dwarf hardy plants. But, like most lists in this book, they have been made up with an eye to the many whose resources are somewhat limited, and who most require information of this sort. For all such beds as we are here speaking of, we recommend them to be raised considerably above the ground-level, and to be thoroughly well drained, so that no stagnant water can stand about the roots of the plants.

All the dwarf hardy Sempervivums, Sedums, and Saxifrages multiply themselves very fast by offsets; and by being divided frequently, a large stock is rapidly got up. The tall Sempervivums and *Aeoniums* form young side-shoots, which strike freely in a gentle heat; and the Echeveria can be raised from seed almost as easily as any tender annual, while some of them, such as *E. secunda*, make offsets freely. A few plants of Echeveria kept in pots, and impregnated while in bloom, swell seed-pods rapidly, and, if sown in spring and pushed forward in heat, make fine plants the same summer. The Agaves are increased, though much more slowly, by suckers formed round the base of the older plants, which should be taken off when well rooted and potted singly. All these fleshy plants do best when kept dry in winter, except when it is desirable to keep them in heat to increase them: then keep them moderately moist. In order to still further illustrate the way in which the following list of plants may be effectively grouped in a different way, and especially when only one large bed can be conveniently devoted to them, we give the annexed fig. 1, and ways of planting it:—

FIG. 1.



1. Centre plant, *Agave americana variegata*, surrounded with large plants of *Echeveria metallica*, the outline being formed of *Sempervivum Bollii*.
2. Large centre plants of the massive dark-green *Sempervivum giganteum*, surrounded with dwarfer plants of *Rochea falcata*, finished with *Echeveria glauca metallica*.
- 3, 3. Large centre plant of the interesting *Sempervivum robustum*, surrounded with *Sempervivum canariense*, and finished with *Echeveria retusa glauca*.
- 4, 4. Large centre plants of *Aeonium arboreum*, surrounded with *Pachyphytum bracteatum*, and finished with *Echeveria atropurpurea*.
- 5, 5. Centre plant of *Kleinia ficoidea*, surrounded with *Echeveria pulverulenta*, and finished with *Echeveria secunda glauca major*.

The broken lines—6—if made up of small plants, *Pachyphytum bracteatum*, would look exceedingly well; or the finishing plant to 4 4, and 5 5, can be extended to meet opposite the centres of the four circles: 7, made up of *Echeveria secunda glauca*, with a *Pachyphytum* every two feet, makes an interesting line; 8, a dense line of *Sempervivum californicum*; and 9, the outer line, of *Saxifraga pectinata*.

The groundwork—10—can be of two distinct plants, the one

extending from the centre outwards to touch the inner points of 4 and 5, and the other filling up the remainder of it. The inner half might be of the pretty variegated Aubrieta, or the still more common Cerastium kept dwarf, while the outer half may be of a dwarf dense Saxifrage or Sedum; or the entire groundwork may be of one plant, in which case we recommend it to be of some glaucous Saxifrage or dwarf Sempervivum, or some silvery close-growing plant, such as *Antennaria tomentosa*.

If planting after this manner be too much for a garden's richness in these plants, then let a groundwork be formed, according to fancy or taste, of the dwarf Sedums, Saxifrages, or Sempervivums, with a few specimens dotted over it, and finish the bed with two or three lines of some dwarf hardy plants. We do not recommend the mixing in of these curious-looking plants with flowering things. Were we to make an exception, it would be in favour of Mesembryanthemums.

A circular bed of this sort can easily be traced out into many different patterns; but in this, as in all flower-garden arrangements, we advocate simplicity and ease. All intricate angularities, especially when attempted within a circular bed, we regard as little better than a confusion of things, and as lessening the chances of successfully accomplishing the end in view.

Select List of Curious-looking and Succulent Plants that require Greenhouse Temperature.

Those marked * are stemless.

<i>Æonium arboreum.</i>	* <i>Echeveria atropurpurea.</i>
<i>Æonium arboreum atropurpureum.</i>	* <i>Echeveria glauca metallica.</i>
<i>Æonium arboreum variegatum.</i>	<i>Echeveria gibbiflora.</i>
<i>Æonium arboreum vittatum.</i>	<i>Echeveria metallica.</i>
<i>Æonium ciliare.</i>	* <i>Echeveria navicularis.</i>
<i>Æonium glutinosum.</i>	* <i>Echeveria nuda.</i>
* <i>Agave americana.</i>	<i>Echeveria pulverulenta.</i>
* <i>Agave americana dealbata.</i>	* <i>Echeveria pumila.</i>
* <i>Agave americana filifera.</i>	* <i>Echeveria retusa glauca.</i>
* <i>Agave americana geminiflora.</i>	* <i>Echeveria secunda.</i>
* <i>Agave americana medio lineata.</i>	* <i>Echeveria secunda glauca.</i>
* <i>Agave americana medio picta.</i>	* <i>Echeveria secunda glauca major.</i>
* <i>Agave americana medio variegata.</i>	<i>Echeveria rotundifolia.</i>
* <i>Agave americana schidigera.</i>	<i>Fourcroya longæva.</i>
<i>Cotyledon pulverulentum.</i>	* <i>Haworthia clariperta.</i>
<i>Crassula arborea.</i>	<i>Kleinia ficoidea.</i>
* <i>Dasyliion acrotrichum.</i>	<i>Kleinia repens.</i>
* <i>Dasyliion glaucum.</i>	<i>Mesembryanthemum.</i>
* <i>Doryanthus excelsa.</i>	<i>Pachyphytum bracteatum.</i>
* <i>Echeveria agavoidea.</i>	<i>Rochea falcata.</i>

- * *Sempervivum Bolllii.*
- Sempervivum calycinum.*
- * *Sempervivum canariense.*
- Sempervivum dorame.*
- Sempervivum giganteum.*
- Sempervivum Polystichum.*

- Sempervivum repens.*
- Sempervivum robustum.*
- Sempervivum rubricaulis.*
- Sempervivum tabulare.*
- Sempervivum umbicum.*

*Select List of Plants suitable for Covering Beds, and forming
Groundworks for the foregoing Plants.*

<i>Acæna microphylla</i> , brownish-green.	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> , purplish rose.
<i>Achillea umbellata</i> , silvery.	<i>Saxifraga pectinata</i> , silvery-edged leaves.
<i>Ajuga reptans rubra</i> , almost crimson.	<i>Saxifraga recta</i> , silvery.
<i>Antennaria tomentosa</i> , silvery white.	<i>Saxifraga Rhei</i> , silvery-edged leaves.
<i>Arabis albida variegata</i> , creamy variegated.	<i>Saxifraga rocheliana</i> , silvery-edged leaves.
<i>Arabis lucida</i> , shining green.	<i>Saxifraga rosularis</i> , silvery-edged leaves.
<i>Arabis lucida variegata</i> , golden variegated.	<i>Sedum brevifolium</i> , glaucous green.
<i>Artemisia frigida</i> , silvery.	<i>Sedum caeruleum</i> , glaucous pale green.
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i> , green.	<i>Sedum corsicum</i> .
<i>Aubrieta deltoidea variegata</i> , white variegated.	<i>Sedum dasypodium</i> , glaucous green.
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i> , white.	<i>Sedum Ewersii</i> , glaucous green.
<i>Herniaria glabra</i> , green.	<i>Sedum glaucum</i> , glaucous green.
<i>Herniaria hirsutum</i> , green.	<i>Sedum hispanicum</i> , pale green.
<i>Mentha pulegium</i> , deep green.	<i>Sedum lividum</i> , rich dark grassy green.
<i>Mesembryanthemum cordifolium</i> variegatum, golden.	<i>Sedum pruinatum</i> , green.
<i>Oxalis corniculata rubra</i> , chocolate.	<i>Sedum rupestre</i> , reddish leaves.
<i>Santolina incana</i> , grey.	<i>Sedum sexifidum</i> , green.
<i>Saxifraga aizoon</i> , glaucous, green.	<i>Sedum Sieboldii</i> , green and variegated varieties.
<i>Saxifraga aizoon minor</i> , green.	<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i> , green, curiously netted with white hairs.
<i>Saxifraga aizoon retusa</i> , green.	<i>Sempervivum arenarium</i> , green.
<i>Saxifraga cristata</i> , silvery-edged leaves.	<i>Sempervivum californicum</i> , dark green tipped with brown.
<i>Saxifraga cristata hybrida</i> , silvery.	<i>Sempervivum Funkii</i> .
<i>Saxifraga hirta</i> , green.	<i>Sempervivum globiferum</i> , green.
<i>Saxifraga Hostii</i> , silvery-edged leaves.	<i>Sempervivum montanum</i> , dark green.
<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i> , green.	<i>Sempervivum soboliferum</i> .
<i>Saxifraga incrassata</i> , silvery.	<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i> , green.
<i>Saxifraga intacta</i> , silvery.	<i>Spergula aurea</i> , golden.
<i>Saxifraga intacta minor</i> , silvery.	<i>Thymus corsicus</i> , green.
<i>Saxifraga longifolia</i> , silvery-edged leaves.	<i>Thymus montanus albus</i> , green.

Carpet-Bedding.—Carpet-bedding has of late become very fashionable, especially in the south of England, where the climate is more suitable for the employment of such tender plants as are most capable of making this style of bedding the most effective. It may be well to explain why the term “carpet” is applied to this style of gardening. It consists wholly, or very nearly so, of plants of various-coloured leaves, and is consequently nearly destitute of flowers in its composition. These coloured-leaved plants, as will shortly be illustrated, are

disposed of or arranged in various patterns worked into one bed, or into each of a series of beds, as the case may be. The patterns may be as simple, intricate, or varied as compass and scale can make them, and often indeed are nearly so; or patterns of birds or butterflies or animals may be wrought out in a groundwork with varied shades of colour. The method generally adopted is that of geometrical patterns somewhat resembling carpets—hence the name Carpet-bedding.

At the Crystal Palace there were some very effective examples of this style of grouping, in which butterflies, among other patterns, were successfully worked out. But it is generally admitted that the most effective specimen of this style has been achieved at Cleveland House, Clapham, near London. Of this premier example of carpet-bedding we are, by the kind permission of the editor of the 'Journal of Horticulture,' enabled to give the following illustrations and description.

Referring to the garden at Cleveland House, the writer says:—

" Yet this is not a great but a small garden, the part under notice not exceeding two acres; but if small it is good both in its design and perfect keeping. The mansion is a square erection, in the Grecian style of architecture. On the south-west front is a terrace, at the foot of which are the almost matchless carpet-beds. They are arranged on a circular piece of lawn about 80 feet in diameter, which is surrounded by a walk, and bounded opposite the house by a raised bank of evergreens fringed with *Ricinus*. This green fringe is an appropriate framework for the brilliant picture which it partly encircles. The principal beds are only seven in number—a circular bed 12 feet in diameter, and six ovals each 20 feet in length, and of an average width of 6 feet. In these beds—a border 60 yards long by 8 feet wide, and a few other minor beds—upwards of sixty thousand plants are arranged, and there is not in carrying out the designs one plant too many or—such is their completeness—one too few.

" The beds are raised—that is, ramped up by turf to about a foot above the lawn level, and the surface of each has a very gentle rise towards the centre. In planting and finish they are perfect; and in colouring, brilliancy is combined with chasteness. Rich tones are imparted by *Golden Feather* and *Alternantheras*; a cool yet lively character is given by the free use of *Mesembryanthemum cordifolium variegatum*; while quietness and repose are afforded by a dense neutral carpet of *Sedum glaucum*, brightened gently yet effectively by glowing tufts of the lovely alpine plant *Nertera depressa*. The association of these two lowly gems is the *chef-d'œuvre* of Mr Legg's taste. The dense and brilliantly berried *Nertera* nestling in the silvery-grey carpet of the miniature *Sedum* is a happy

idea admirably carried out. If the birds do not carry off the berries, the beauty of this combination will be sustained throughout September. As seen from the terrace these beds are simply beautiful, while each will bear the closest examination; but to comprehend their beauty to the fullest extent, they must be looked down upon from the upper windows of the mansion. For that privilege I am indebted to the special kindness of Mrs Ralli, and I have been thinking of it and dreaming about it ever since.

"In these elaborate beds, which are so full, level, and smooth, with sharply-defined lines of colour, now brilliant and now soft, not one flower is to be seen. It is carpet-bedding *par excellence*, and proves that no flowers are required. Even blue Lobelias would have spoiled this design, for, as the present season has proved, they cannot be kept within the precise bounds required. Mathematical precision is the very essence of this mode of garden decoration. There must be no uncertainty as to what height and breadth a plant will grow. Ideal lines must be drawn, and beyond or above these the plants must not be permitted to travel; and, further, they must be of a nature not to receive injury to health or appearance by being restricted within these limits. These conditions cannot be attained where flowers are admitted. It is the judicious employment of foliage alone which constitutes true carpet-bedding, which neither receives injury by sun nor rain, and which affords all the colours and shades required to create an imposing effect. The effect of these beds is due to foliage alone, with the one solitary exception of the bright clusters of berries of *Nertera depressa*, which stud, like brilliants in a silvery sea, the smooth carpet of *Sedum glaucum*.

"How are such panels as *Tagetes* and Golden Feather kept to the level of *Alternanthera amœna* or the *Sedum* above mentioned, which does not grow more than 2 inches high? It is not only the result of pinching the tall plants—for that alone would not suffice—but also by raising those which are of dwarf close growth. The soil at planting time for one is raised, while the site for another is sunken. The centre bed of the group, Plate XI. at end of volume, affords a clear example. The groundwork is composed of *Mesembryanthemum*, the panels being formed of *Tagetes* and *Alternanthera*. Had all been planted on the same level, the severe pinching of the *Tagetes* to keep it down to the required level would have marred its effect; but by planting it in panels a few inches below the bed level, and by planting the *Alternanthera* on mounds an inch or two above the said level, the surfaces of each plant are on the exact level required. To this care Mr Legg mainly attributes his success. He knows the habit of each plant, and provides accordingly by sinking the lines of those which grow tall, and raising the sites of those which grow dwarf. More time is absorbed in planting, but it is recovered again by less being devoted to pinching. But to these beds are ungrudgingly devoted time, skill, and labour (for they cannot be produced without), but the greater the investment of means the greater is the triumph achieved.

"Mode of Planting the Beds."

BED A.

1. *Tagetes signata pumila.*
2. *Mesembryanthemum cordifolium variegatum.*
3. *Alternanthera amabilis.*
4. *Pyrethrum Golden Feather.*
5. *Alternanthera paronychioides.*
6. *Echeveria secunda glauca* and *Sedum glaucum.*
7. *Alternanthera amoena.*

BED B.

1. *Santolina incana.*
2. *Alternanthera versicolor.*
3. *Mesembryanthemum cordifolium variegatum.*
4. *Alternanthera amabilis.*

5. *Pyrethrum Golden Feather.*
6. *Alternanthera amoena.*
7. *Echeveria secunda glauca.*
8. *Sedum glaucum dotted with Nervosa depressa.*
9. *Alternanthera paronychioides.*
10. *Stellaria graminea aurea.*

BED C.

1. *Alternanthera paronychioides.*
2. *Sempervivum calcareum* and *Sedum glaucum.*
3. *Pyrethrum Golden Feather.*
4. *Alternanthera magnifica.*
5. *Mesembryanthemum cordifolium variegatum.*
6. *Pachyphytum bracteosum* and *Sedum acre elegans.*"

The only reason why this most effective example of carpet-bedding cannot be carried out *exactly* in the wetter and colder parts of the north of England and Scotland is, because the *Alternantheras* do not succeed in such localities. The strong dark shades which they give are indispensable to work out the most brilliant effects. The best substitute for *Alternantheras*, in districts where they do not succeed, is Dell's dwarf Beet. It is rather taller than the *Alternantheras*, but that can easily be overcome by lowering that part of the design into which it is put, to bring it to the proper level.

In large flower-gardens, and when viewed at long distances, this style of grouping, to be effective and come out well defined, requires to be carried out on a large scale. Indeed it is only effective when comparatively close under the eyes. It is, however, well worthy of a place in every garden, for the sake of its brilliancy and neatness, as well as for variety; but it is too bald and formal in its outline and general effect to be recommended for extensive planting. A very few beds of it are quite enough.

CHAPTER VII.

THE HARDY FLOWER-GARDEN.

HARDY HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL PLANTS.

HERBACEOUS perennials are a class of plants distinct in their nature from annuals and biennials, inasmuch as they live for an indefinite number of years, and differ from shrubby plants in the limited and less woody nature of their growth, and in dying down to the ground every year after they have flowered, and their leaves and stems have performed the functions necessary to their future wellbeing. They are a very extensive class, but, with comparatively few exceptions, not so well adapted for massing in geometrical flower-gardens as their more tender rivals, so long popularly known as bedding-plants. They are, nevertheless, a most interesting class, and individually many of them are exquisitely beautiful; and one feature in their character—namely, their hardiness—makes them available in all gardens, where for many years past they have not met with the amount of patronage and attention their great variety and beauty deserve. They have recently, from various causes, had much more attention, and they are taking something like the position they once held in gardens; and this is as it should be, wherever there is a desire for great variety of form and colour.

It is with the view of assisting those of my readers who have no glass by means of which to grow the tender and half-hardy plants already treated of, and who do not feel disposed to purchase them, to see that there is no reason why they should not have most interesting flower-borders, by growing hardy perennials in conjunction with hardy annuals, neither of which calls for a single pane of glass in order to cultivate them well.

Indeed, even to the most wealthy who reside at their country-seats in spring and early summer, hardy perennials that bloom from February till the middle of June are indispensable, if outdoor flowers in variety are to be enjoyed at all. This applies with still more force to business men who reside in the outskirts of large towns, and who are proverbially fond of gardening, for relaxation as well as for its own sake.

While we venture to suppose that these remarks will commend themselves to all who have to deal with the requirements named, we cannot endorse much that has of late been advanced condemnatory of the very effective but more tender plants that have so long been prominently used in most gardens. But as this has already been referred to, I desire not to say anything more here than that, while both descriptions of plants are recommended, it is not for a moment to be understood that to make autumn flower-gardens as gay with flowers *as it is possible*, is a point to be accomplished without patronising largely the half-hardy and tender plants already treated of. The whole question as to when or where perennials should be in the ascendant, and *vice versa*, must depend on the season when flowers are required. If that season be spring and early summer, then half-hardy and tender plants are of necessity excluded; but if in summer and autumn, for intricate geometrical designs, these will be placed in the ascendant. Their habit of continuous blooming, and more compact and manageable growth, at once distinguish them for this particular position and season. No garden of any pretensions should be considered perfect, or as enjoyable as it can be made, where either our gay bedding-plants or hardy perennials are not duly represented.

Spring flower-gardening, on the grouping system, is separately treated of: the object here is to recommend and treat briefly of a selection of hardy plants that bloom in early spring, and onwards till autumn; and for which, as a whole, the mixed border or shrubbery recesses must be looked on as the most appropriate places, where, with a mixture of annuals and other plants, a most effective succession of flowers can be kept up for a long time.

Culture.—The great majority of the plants enumerated in the accompanying list thrive well in ordinary garden soil. A deep sandy loam embraces the wants, in this particular, of the greatest part of the most showy herbaceous and bulbous plants. In preparing a border for a fresh plantation, it should be well

manured, deeply trenched if the staple allow of it, and thoroughly pulverised. Previous to planting, a good dressing of leaf-mould and some rough bone-dust, forked in and mixed with the top spit, will be of great service. In soils that are tenacious and wet, thorough drainage is of the first importance. Road-grit, or finely-sifted mortar-rubbish or burned soil, mixed in with such soil, is very beneficial mechanically; and these plants, generally speaking, thrive well with such. Light, hot, sandy soil calls for contrary treatment, and a dressing of good holding loam will greatly improve it, while plants in such soil should in summer be mulched to prevent evaporation of moisture. Depth of soil is of great importance in the culture of the majority of herbaceous plants. If shallow, and lying on a hard subsoil, their bloom will be comparatively poor and short-lived, especially in dry seasons and localities.

Tuberous and bulbous-rooted plants are best planted in autumn. Although, with careful management, such things as *Narcissus*, *Crocus*, *Snowdrops*, &c., can be moved and planted, even when in bloom, successfully, it is nevertheless desirable to plant all such in autumn before they begin their growth upwards, so that plenty of time is allowed for them to make roots, and so insure a good growth and bloom in spring. The fibrous-rooted plants are generally so hardy, that they can be transplanted and do well at any time when the weather is mild and the ground in working condition. In the case of the more weakly rooted and growing sorts, the spring—just as they are beginning to grow—is the safest time to remove and plant them. But large-growing, strong-rooting things—such as *Phloxes*, *Delphiniums*, *Asters*, *Potentillas*, &c.—can be moved with impunity any time after they are cut down in autumn. Where a whole season's bloom has to be provided for, the best way is to plant the early and later flowering sorts time about. Planting first a spring-flowering plant, then a summer flowerer, and then an autumn-blooming plant—thus mixing them as regularly as their heights and colours will allow—provides against there being extensive blanks at any given time of the season; and with the aid of annuals, and half-hardy plants and bulbs, the gaps caused by the fading of the early-flowering sorts can be made up as they occur, by planting or sowing close to the early perennials before they go out of bloom. By the liberal use of hardy flowering bulbs—such as *Crocuses*, *Snowdrops*, *Tulips*, &c., which can be removed with balls, and laid in reserve to ripen, so making

way for summer-flowering things—an almost incessant bloom can be maintained in mixed borders. All plants introduced into such borders for successional blooming should have the ground prepared for them, by mixing in some well-rotted manure with the soil both under and around their roots. This applies to bulbs—such as Hyacinths, Tulips, &c.—with equal force. If not convenient to carefully remove bulbous plants as they go out of flower, their foliage should not be cut away before it ripens: it may be pushed aside for the time, and the successor planted close to it. If left thus in the border, each patch should be marked with a piece of neat stake or label, so that it be not destroyed or interfered with by mistake. Indeed, many or most hardy bulbs are best left undisturbed for several years, for they bloom more strongly and increase better than when often disturbed. Taking the year through, all who have only a limited patch of ground or border will derive far more bloom and greater variety from a selection of the best herbaceous plants and hardy bulbs managed in this way, than from any other single class of plants.

The various colours afforded by the Hepatica, the Primrose, and other early-flowering plants treated of distinctly for spring grouping, are very beautiful, and they bear removal from mixed borders, if convenient to do so; and their places can be taken by autumn-sown annuals, and such continuous bloomers as Stocks, Daisies, Pansies, &c. And all who can winter a few large plants of Scarlet Pelargoniums, and many other half-hardy things, will find that their brilliant hues lend a brightness to mixed borders which cannot well be had without them. The many things in the way of bulbous-rooted plants—such as Tulips, Hyacinths, Narcissus, &c., which can be bought at a cheap rate—are also available by those who, either from choice or necessity, are restricted to a mixed border. They can be potted in small pots in autumn by almost every one who possesses a garden, for they only require some light rich soil, and plunging in any snug corner, covered over with a few inches of light soil and loose litter to protect from frost. Here they can remain till such early flowers as Snowdrops and Winter Aconites are past; then they can be planted as directed, either close to these early plants or in their place, to bloom for a while, and be in their turn succeeded by tender subjects.

Very generally, perennial plants are allowed to remain undisturbed in the same border and soil for many years in

succession, receiving no further treatment than being dug amongst annually, with an occasional dressing of manure. It would be much better for them if they were lifted out of the border at intervals of years, when the health and vigour of the plants show signs of waning, and carefully laid in till the border was trenched and well manured, and, where practicable, a portion of fresh maiden soil substituted for a portion of the old. Strong sorts in the course of years rob the weaker feeders of nourishment, and require curtailing biennially at least to keep them within bounds. But to dig deeply and disturb the roots of weaker growers annually is a great mistake. It is much better to apply some rich top-dressing, simply forking it into the surface without disturbing the roots.

The following list comprises selections of the more showy sorts. I have resisted the temptation to make long lists of many that personally I am very partial to, but, instead, have studied the useful and most suitable for mixed borders in moderate-sized places. Many early plants omitted in this selection are referred to in the Chapters on Spring-gardening and Alpine plants.

Select List of Hardy Herbaceous Plants.

- Achillea ageratoides, white, 9 inches—June.
- Achillea aurea, yellow, 1 foot—June and July.
- * Achillea eupatorium, yellow, 3 feet—June and July.
- Achillea millefolium roseum, rose, 2 feet—July.
- Achillea ptarmica flore-pleno, white, 1½ foot—June to August.
- * Achillea tomentosa, yellow, 9 inches—June.
- * Aconitum japonicum, blue, 3 feet—June to September.
- Adonis vernalis, yellow, 1 foot—March and April.
- * Agrostemma coronaria, scarlet, 2 to 3 feet—June to August.
- * Almeria cephalotus, rose crimson, 1 foot—May and June.
- Alongifolius formosus, lilac, 1 foot—September and October.
- * Alyssum saxatile, yellow, ¼ foot—April and May.
- Alyssum saxatile foliis variegatis, yellow, ¼ foot—April to May.
- Anemone apennina, blue, ¾ foot—March and April.
- * Anemone coronaria, various, ¾ foot—March to May.
- Anemone fulgens, 1 foot—June and July.
- * Anemone japonica, white and red varieties, 2 feet—September.
- Anemone Pavonina, crimson, 1 foot—April and May.
- Anemone sylvestris, white, 1½ foot—April and May.
- * Anemone sylvestris, white, 1 foot—May to June.
- Antennaria margaritacea, yellow and white, 1½ foot—July to September.
- Anthemis tinctoria, lemon, 2½ feet—July.
- Anthericum Liliastrum, white, 1 foot—June to July.
- * Aquilegia alpina, blue and white, 1 foot—May to July.
- * Aquilegia cærulea, sky-blue, 1 foot—May and June.
- Aquilegia chrysantha, blue, 4 feet—August and September.
- * Aquilegia glandulosa, blue and white, 1½ foot—May to July.
- Aquilegia Skinnerii, scarlet and green, 1½ foot—April to June.
- * Aquilegia truncata, orange-scarlet, 8 inches—September.

- * *Arabis albida*, white, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—February to May.
- * *Arabis lucida variegata*, white, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot—April and May.
- Arum dracunculus*, pale green and purple, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June and July.
- Asclepias tuberosa*, orange, 1 to 2 feet—June and July.
- Asphodelus luteus*, yellow, 3 feet—July.
- * *Aster alpinus*, blue, 9 inches—May.
- Aster amellus*, purple, 2 feet—August and September.
- * *Aster amplexicaulis*, pale violet, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—September.
- Aster bessarabicus*, violet, 2 feet—September and October.
- * *Aster cassubicus*, purple, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—October.
- Aster Curtissii*, lavender, 3 feet—September and October.
- Aster discolor major*, white and purple, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—August and September.
- * *Aster elegans*, white, 3 feet—September and October.
- Aster ericoides*, white, 3 feet—September and October.
- Aster grandiflorus*, purple, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—October and November.
- Aster horizontalis*, greyish, 2 feet.
- Aster hyssopifolius*, rosy lilac, 2 feet—September and October.
- Aster levis*, blue, 2 feet—September and October.
- * *Aster linariifolius*, rose, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—September and October.
- * *Aster Novæ-Angliae*, var. *pulchellus*, blue, with orange eye, 4 feet—September and October.
- Aster Novæ-Angliae roseus*, bright rose, red eye, 4 feet—September and October.
- Aster Novæ-Angliae*, purple, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet—September and October.
- Aster trinervis*, pale lilac, 3 feet—September and October.
- * *Aster versicolor*, white and pink, 1 foot—September and October.
- Astragalus vaginatus*, rosy purple, 1 foot—July.
- * *Aubrieta deltoidea*, lilac, 4 inches—March and April.
- Aubrieta grandiflora*, purple, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—April to June.
- * *Baptisia australis*, blue, 3 feet—June and July.
- Baptisia exaltata*, blue, 3 feet—July.
- Bocconia cordata*, brownish, 6 feet—August and September.
- Calimeris diplopappus*, 3 feet.
- Caltha palustris flore-pleno*, yellow, 1 foot—June and July.
- * *Campanula carpatica*, blue and white, 1 foot—June to August.
- * *Campanula fragilis*, pale blue, 6 inches—June and July.
- Campanula grandiflora*, blue—August and September.
- Campanula grandis*, blue, 2 feet—June to August.
- Campanula macrantha*, blue, 3 feet—June to August.
- * *Campanula nobilis*, pale red, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—July.
- * *Campanula persicifolia* (various), $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June to September.
- * *Campanula persicifolia* (varieties), blue, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June to August.
- Campanula pyramidalis*, blue, 5 feet—July.
- * *Campanula rotundifolia*, blue, 2 feet—April and May.
- Campanula trachelium pleno*, blue and white, 3 feet—July and August.
- * *Campanula turbinata*, purple, 9 inches—June and July.
- Cardamine pratensis flore-pleno*, white, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—March and April.
- Catananche bicolor* and *cærulea*, white and blue, 1 foot—July.
- Centaurea montana*, blue, 1 to 2 feet—June.
- * *Centranthus ruber*, red, 2 feet—June and July.
- * *Cheiranthus alpinus*, yellow, 1 foot—April to June.
- Cheiranthus Cheirii* (double and single), various, 1 to 2 feet—March to June.
- Cheiranthus Marshallii*, yellow, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—April to June.
- Chelone barbata*, scarlet, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June to September.
- Chelone Lyonii*, purple, 3 feet—June and July.
- Chrysanthemum arcticum*, white, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—August and September.
- Chrysanthemum lacustre*, white, 3 feet—September and October.
- Chrysocoma latifolia*, yellow, 3 feet—September.
- * *Colchicum autumnale*, various colours, double and single—September and October.

- * *Convallaria majalis*, white, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—April and May.
- * *Convolvulus althaeoides*, pink, 1 foot—July to September.
- Coreopsis grandiflora*, yellow, 3 feet—July.
- Coreopsis lanceolata*, yellow, 2 feet—June to August.
- * *Coreopsis tenuifolia*, yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—July.
- * *Coronilla varia*, pink, 1 foot—June and July.
- Corydalis lutea*, yellow, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—May to July.
- * *Corydalis nobilis*, yellow, 1 foot—June.
- * *Cypripedium spectabile*, white veined with crimson, 2 feet—July.
- * *Delphinium* (in varieties), various, 3 to 4 feet—June to August.
- Dentaria digitata*, purple, 1 foot—April.
- Dianthus Atkinssii*, crimson, 1 foot—September and October.
- * *Dianthus cruentus*, dark crimson, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- * *Dianthus superbus*, purple and white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—May to July.
- Dicentra eximia*, reddish purple, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—May and June.
- * *Dicentra spectabilis*, crimson, 1 foot—May.
- Dictamnus fraxinella*, purple and white, 2 feet—June and July.
- * *Dielytra spectabilis*, rose and yellow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—April to June.
- Digitalis Thapsi*, purple, 2 to 3 feet—July.
- * *Dodecatheon Jeffreyanum*, purple and lilac, 2 feet—May and June.
- * *Dodecatheon meadia*, purple and lilac, 1 foot—April to June.
- * *Dodecatheon elegans*, purple and white, 1 foot—April to June.
- Doronicum austriacum*, yellow, 1 foot—June.
- * *Doronicum caucasicum*, yellow, 1 foot—May and June.
- Dracocephalum alpinum*, yellow, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—April and May.
- Dracocephalum austriacum*, blue, 1 foot—July.
- * *Echinacea serotina*, purplish red, 3 to 4 feet—July and August.
- Echinops ritro*, blue, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- Echinops ruthenicus*, blue, 3 feet—June to August.
- Echinops ruthenicus*, blue, 3 to 4 feet—August and September.
- Epilobium angustifolium*, white and rose, 5 feet—August and September.
- Epimedium pinnatum elegans*, yellow, 1 foot—March and April.
- * *Erigeron Roylei*, pale purple, 4 inches—June.
- Erigeron speciosum*, blue, 2 feet—June and July.
- * *Eryngium alpinum*, blue, 2 feet—July and August.
- Eryngium amethystinum*, blue, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June and July.
- * *Fritillaria imperialis*, various, 3 feet—March and April.
- * *Fritillaria Meleagris*, various, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—March and April.
- Fritillaria praecox*, white, 1 foot—April.
- Funkia japonica*, white, 1 foot—July and August.
- Funkia ovata* and *ovata variegata*, lilac, 1 foot—July.
- * *Funkia Sieboldii*, bluish, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—July.
- Gaillardia aristata*, yellow, 2 feet—July and August.
- * *Galega officinalis*, blue, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June and July.
- * *Gentiana acaulis*, indigo blue, 4 inches—June.
- * *Gentiana asclepiadea*, blue, 1 foot—July and August.
- * *Geranium ibericum*, violet, 1 foot—June and July.
- Geranium platypetalum*, violet, 2 feet—July.
- Geranium striatum*, white, striped red, 18 inches—June.
- * *Geum coccineum*, scarlet, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- Geum chilense*, scarlet, 2 feet—June and July.
- Gnaphalium marginatum*, white and yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet—July.
- Hedysarum obscurum*, rosy purple, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—May and June.
- * *Helichrysum arenarium*, yellow, 1 foot—June and July.
- Helleborus niger*, pink, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—January to March.
- Hemerocallis flava*, yellow, 2 feet—June.
- Hemerocallis graminea*, pale yellow, 1 foot—June to August.
- * *Hesperis matronalis*, purple and white, 2 feet—June to September.
- * *Hoteia japonica*, white, 16 inches—June.
- * *Iberis sempervirens*, white, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—March to May.

- * *Iberis gibraltarica*, white, 1 foot—March to May.
- * *Iris amœna*, blue, 2 feet—June.
- * *Iris flavescens*, yellow, 3 feet—June.
- * *Iris florentina*, white, 2 feet—June.
- * *Iris germanica* (in variety), blue, 2 feet—May and June.
Iris Jacquesiana, dark-coloured, 2 feet—April and May.
- Iris ochroleuca*, purple, 3 feet—April and May.
- * *Iris pallida*, blue, 2 feet—May and June.
- * *Iris pumila* (in variety), purple, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—April and May.
Iris reticulata, purple, 6 inches—April.
- Iris Susiana*, blue, 2 feet—May.
- Iris subbiflora*, violet, 2 feet—June.
- * *Iris variegata*, striped, 2 feet—May and June.
- Lamium garganicum*, purple, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June.
- Lamium maculatum*, purplish red, 1 foot—May.
- * *Lathyrus grandiflorus*, purple, 4 feet—June and July.
- * *Lathyrus latifolius*, pink, 4 feet.
- * *Lathyrus roseus superbus*, red, 2 feet—July and August.
Lathyrus rotundifolius, rosy purple, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—July.
- Leucocymum astivum*, white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—April to June.
- Liatis spicata*, purple, 3 feet—June and July.
- Liatis squarrosa*, purple, 3 feet—September and October.
- * *Lilium canadense*, yellow, 3 feet—June and July.
- * *Lilium candidum*, white, 3 feet—June.
- * *Lilium chalcedonicum*, scarlet, 3 feet—June and July.
- Lilium colchicum*, lemon, 4 feet—June and July.
- * *Lilium excelsum*, cream, 4 feet—June and July.
- * *Lilium longiflorum*, white, 2 feet—June and July.
- * *Lilium speciosum*, rosy white, 2 feet—July.
- * *Lilium tigrinum*, orange scarlet, 4 feet—July.
- * *Linaria triornithophora*, purple, 1 foot—July to October.
- Linum flavum*, yellow, 1 foot—June.
- Linum narbonnense*, blue, 1 foot—June and July.
- * *Lithospermum prostratum*, deep blue—May to July.
- Lithospermum purpureo-cæruleum*, bluish purple, 9 inches—June and July
- * *Lupinus polyphyllus*, blue and white, 3 feet—June.
- Lychnis chalcedonica*, scarlet, 2 to 3 feet—July.
- Lychnis grandiflora*, red, 1 foot—July and August.
- Lychnis viscaria*, various, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June.
- Lythrum roseum superbum*.
- Monarda didyma*, red, 2 feet—June and July.
- Monarda purpurea*, reddish purple, 2 feet—June and July.
- * *Muscari botryoides*, blue, 9 inches—April and May.
- Muscari racemosum*, blue, 6 inches—April and May.
- Myosotis dissitiflora*, blue, 1 foot—March to June.
- Myosotis palustris*, blue, 9 inches—May to August.
- Myosotis sylvatica*, blue, 1 foot—April and May.
- * *Narcissus major*, and varieties, yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—March to May.
- * *Narcissus odorus*, yellow, 1 foot—March to May.
- * *Narcissus poeticus*, white, 1 foot—March to May.
- Oenothera fruticosa*, yellow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June and July.
- Ornithogalum umbellatum*, white, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot—April.
- * *Orobis cyaneus*, blue, 1 foot—May and June.
- Orobis lathyroides*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
- * *Orobis vernus*, purple, 1 foot—March to May.
- * *Paeonia* (in variety), various, 2 feet—June and July.
- Papaver nudicaule*, yellow, 1 foot—April to June.
- Papaver orientale*, red, 2 feet—June and July.
- * *Pentstemon gentianoides*, various, 1 to 2 feet—June to August.
- Pentstemon procerus*, blue, 1 foot—June and July.

- * *Phlomis pungens*, purple, 2 feet—June and July.
- * *Phlox* (in variety), various, 2 to 4 feet—June to September.
- Physostegia virginiana*, red, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June and July.
- Polemonium caeruleum*, blue, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- Polygonum Sieboldii* (in variety), white, 3 feet—June and July.
- * *Potentilla* (in variety), various, 1 to 2 feet—June and July.
- Primulas* in variety.
- Pulmonaria officinalis*, rose and blue, 9 inches—April.
- * *Pyrethrum parthenium flore-pleno*, white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June to September.
- * *Pyrethrum roseum* (single and double, in variety), various, 2 feet—June.
See list, page 143.
- * *Pyrethrum serotinum*, white, 4 feet.
- Pyrethrum uliginosum*, white, 3 feet—May and June.
- Ranunculus speciosus flore-pleno*, yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- Ranunculus spicatus*, yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—May.
- Rudbeckia Drummondii*, yellow, 2 feet—July and August.
- * *Rudbeckia hirta*, yellow, 2 feet—July to September.
- * *Rudbeckia Newmannii*, yellow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—July and August.
- Rudbeckia purpurea grandiflora*, purple, 4 feet—July and August.
- Sanguinaria canadensis*, white, 6 inches—April.
- Saponaria ocymoides*, red, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- Saxifraga cordifolia*, white, 1 foot—May.
- * *Saxifraga ligulata*, rosy white, 9 inches—May.
- Saxifraga longifolia*, white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- * *Saxifraga purpurascens*, purple, 6 inches—May.
- Scabiosa caucasica*, blue, 2 feet—July.
- * *Sedum spectabile* (fabaria), dark rose, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—September to November.
- Sisyrinchium grandiflorum*, purple, 10 inches—May.
- Solidago grandiflora*, yellow, 2 feet—September.
- Spiraea aruncus*, creamy white, 4 feet—June and July.
- Spiraea filipendula flore-pleno*, white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June to August.
- Spiraea japonica*, white, 2 feet—July and August.
- * *Spiraea palmata*, scarlet, 2 feet—July and August.
- Spiraea ulmaria flore-pleno*, white, 2 feet—July.
- Spiraea venusta*, carmine, 2 feet—June and July.
- Spiraea venusta*, rose, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—July and August.
- * *Statice eximia*, pink, 1 foot—June and July.
- * *Statice latifolia*, blue, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June to August.
- Stenactis aruncus*, white, 3 to 4 feet—July and August.
- Stenactis speciosa*, purple, 2 feet—July to October.
- * *Sternbergia lutea*, yellow, 6 inches—September and October.
- Stipa pennata* (a grass), 1 foot—June and July.
- Sympodium bohemicum*, purple, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June.
- Sympodium caucasicum*, blue, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—June and July.
- Thalictrum aquilegifolium*, purplish, 2 feet—June.
- Thermopsis fabacea*, yellow, 2 feet—June and July.
- Trachelium caeruleum*, blue, 2 feet—June.
- Tradescantia virginica*, various, 2 feet—May and June.
- Trillium grandiflorum*, green and white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—April to June.
- * *Triteleia uniflora*, white, 6 inches—May.
- Tritoma grandis*, red and orange, 5 feet—October to January.
- Tritoma uvaria glaucescens*, red and orange, 3 feet—August to October.
- Trollius americanus*, yellow, 1 foot—May to July.
- Trollius asiaticus*, orange, 1 foot—May and June.
- Trollius europaeus*, yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—May and June.
- Trollius napellifolius*, yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot—May and June.
- Tropaeolum polyphyllum*, yellow, 5 feet—July to September.
- Tropaeolum speciosum*, scarlet, 6 feet—July to October.
- Verbascum Chaixii*, yellow, 3 feet—July.
- Verbascum phoeniceum*, purple and white, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet—June.

Veronica amethystina, blue, 2 feet—June to August.
Veronica corymbosa, blue, 1½ foot—June to August.
Veronica gentianoides, blue, 2 feet—May and June.
Veronica teucrium, light blue, 2 feet—June to August.

This list might be considerably extended, and many other interesting plants added to it; but I have aimed at compiling such a selection as shall embrace most showy border flowers, and that thrive well in ordinary garden soils. Some of those that shall be treated of and recommended for spring beds, as well as the beautiful hardy bulbs recommended for the same purpose, are not included here; and for select lists of, and full cultural directions for, such as *Delphiniums* and *Phloxes*, the reader is referred to the chapters where they are treated of distinctly.

Those marked * are most desirable for a small selection, and are very beautiful plants,—especially well worth the attention of amateurs who can devote a border to them and the lovely hardy spring bulbs, which, used together as has been described, keep up a long succession of bloom as a mixed border.

To give exact directions for the arranging of mixed borders or groups by means of diagrams has frequently been attempted, but with nothing approaching to a satisfactory result; and being under the impression that no thoroughly exact and satisfactory results are attainable in this direction by plans, we have decided not to attempt it.

With regard to the position most appropriate for mixed borders or groups of herbaceous plants, suffice it to say that nearly every garden, large or small, affords spaces that can be made very gay and interesting by adopting the mixed style already indicated in this Chapter. In large places, the flower borders which, in the great majority of instances, flank the main walks of the vegetable and fruit garden, afford excellent and convenient quarters for such a display, and in a great many instances have been so utilised. In most cases these borders are cut off from the vegetable quarters either by espalier rails for fruit-trees or by dwarf-bush fruits. Then there are almost always available either recesses in shrubberies or individual beds where hardy plants can be fitted in with excellent effect. The circles, for instance, in Design No. 1, placed in the recesses of a shrubbery, would be well adapted for this purpose; and if desired, the spaces here, if planted with herbaceous plants, need not be cut off entirely from the shrubbery, but be, as it were, grafted on to the shrubbery in as convenient forms, according to taste and circumstances.

To our mind, the most judicious remarks that have ever appeared on the composition and management of such beds or borders, are those of Mr Sutherland, in his excellent work on Hardy Herbaceous Plants, and which are as follows:—

“Remarks on the Arrangement of Mixed Borders.—It is not easy, if it is even possible, to put on paper instructions for planting a mixed border on a definite plan. It has been often attempted, but the result has always been more or less vague. There are too many details involved in the matter to admit of its being made intelligible or clear on paper. It is more desirable to be thoroughly conversant with the points essential to be observed, in order to produce a beautiful whole, rich in variety throughout, than to be provided with plans on paper for this or any other style of planting. Perhaps the first and most important point—to all the smaller classes of gardens it will be so, at least—to keep in view in the planting of a mixed border is, that it should be so arranged, and composed of such materials, as to be more or less replete with interest at all points at all times, if not in flowers, at least in foliage and in diversity of individual aspect. In order to be able to bring about this result, the planter must have an intimate knowledge of the height, colour, habit, and aspect at all seasons, and the time of flowering, and the duration of the flowers, of the different subjects to be planted. Skill and taste in grouping must do the rest. It should be remembered that freedom and grace ought to have prominent consideration in mixed borders, and that along with these there must be order,—the plants being graduated easily and gracefully from front to back. Rigid lines, however, as in geometric planting in the massing system, should always be avoided; but it will be necessary to consider the bearings of the contiguous subjects at any given point both on each other and upon the whole, especially when space is limited. Monotonous and frequent repetitions of the same effect are undesirable. Harmony of colour and harmony of form, and agreeable contrasts of both, are of equal importance in mixed planting as in massing. An outrage of the one or the other may be more easily discernible in the latter style than in the former, but if often repeated it will have the same bad effect, although the cause may not be always easily defined. Although the object of this book is to bring about a more frequent use of hardy perennials in garden embellishment, I do not think it is desirable to recommend their exclusive use in even mixed planting, for which style they are better fitted than for any other. It would be a difficult matter to make a selection of hardy perennials capable of keeping up a sustained interest all the year round; and such a selection, when made, would probably present too little individuality or variety to be valuable in any but small gardens, or for any but limited or specific effects. But supposing it were otherwise, it would not be desirable in all cases, for it would not meet all the ends for which flowers are, or should be, cultivated, and would lead to many of the limitations of enjoyments obtainable therefrom that are

complained of in the exclusive practice of the massing system. Good annuals and bedding plants are invaluable materials in the arrangement of mixed borders for effect; but hardy perennials—especially such as flower in spring and in late autumn—ought to form the groundwork of such arrangements, and the others, according to desire or necessity, should be regarded as temporary and subordinate aids to the end in view. Spring-flowering plants, owing to their usually low stature, are planted at the front of mixed borders as a rule; and in so far as concerns many of the fibrous-rooted evergreen and deciduous species, the practice is right, and consistent with order. But with regard to spring-flowering bulbs, there does not appear to me to be any reason why they should be crowded to the front of borders in the same way. Their foliage is in the way for only a short period of the season, and may often be removed earlier than it is without injury to the plants. The advantages that would be obtained, therefore, by planting them in the spaces between the summer-flowering plants all over the border are very obvious; the fringy and irregular appearance in spring that results from the practice of crowding the flowers of that period to the front of the border would be done away with, and every part of the surface unoccupied with dormant plants might be as richly varied and beautiful then as at any other period. In connection with this I would draw the attention of readers to the value of the spring-flowering hardy annuals, especially those commonly known as ‘Californian.’ They are indispensable for spring gardening, and those inquiring after them will find much valuable information in a cheap little work on annuals by Mr Thompson, seedsman, Ipswich, one of our best authorities on such matters. The title of the book is, ‘The Gardening-Book of Annuals.’ Much might be done, also, to render mixed borders beautiful, not only in spring, but all the year over, by adopting the ‘carpeting’ practice that has made some favour for itself in connection with the massing system. Looked at correctly, this practice is mixed planting, not massing; and it cannot, of course, be done without obliterating the essential features of the massing style. It appears to me to be a very desirable practice to introduce generally into mixed borders; and the abundance of hardy evergreen trailing or creeping plants, and others of various tones and variegations of foliage that are to be found available for the purpose, renders the adoption of the practice, in so far as the procuring of materials is concerned, easy. The bright beauty of spring flowers rising in relief from a carpet, say, of the moss-like *Saxifrage*, or the still more compact, and in many soils not less verdant, *Spergula pilifera*, would be more enjoyable on account of the cheerful contrast than when springing from and often bedraggled with the soil. There would be no more difficulty in keeping a border so carpeted than there is in the ordinary way, and there would be no increase of labour; perhaps it would even be somewhat diminished. To many mountain-pasture plants, carpeting the surface in the way indicated would be a real boon. Many of these plants die in cultivation from too much exposure to the

sun, and the variable condition of the surface caused by the scrupulous cleanliness which should prevail in gardens in order to make them enjoyable. With diminutive species that are easily overborne by their neighbours, such a plan is not practicable ; but there are very few of these that would be of much value as ornaments in the mixed border in any way, for generally they are as difficult to keep in the usual way as they would be in the other, and are therefore, in either case, better and safer in some place by themselves, on rockwork or in pots.

"General Culture of Herbaceous Plants."—The mass of herbaceous plants, being found in varieties of alluvial soil, may be grown successfully in the ordinary soil of gardens, or in such as general field and garden cultivation may be practised with success. Depth and the mechanical condition of the soil is of much more importance than the chemical composition to the great majority of hardy perennials, and it is to those two points that attention should be mainly directed when preparations are being entered upon for their culture. The ground should be trenched deeply if it will admit of it, and if not, as much should be done as is possible under the circumstances to add to the depth. If the ground is thin and gravelly—and these two conditions very generally accompany each other—good loam or clay should be added to the fullest extent practicable, incorporating carefully the new with the old soil in the process of working it. In soils of this sort, herbage of a luxuriant and valuable kind does not exist in nature, nor can it reasonably be expected to do so in cultivation ; and as we should aim at the best results in this as in all kinds of work, it is well to bear in mind that they are only attainable by the employment of the best means and judgment. It may be stated as generally applicable to the mass of hardy perennials, and especially so to the more showy and valuable ones, that they grow badly, and flower both ill and briefly, in thin dry soil, and hence the necessity for improvement before attempting their culture in it, if of that character. If, on the other hand, the soil is deep and moist to wetness, there may be excessive luxuriance produced thereby in some species, but very many of the more valuable ones will be injured rather than improved. Many of our best border perennials die in such soil during winter ; they do not ripen well, and their tissues being soft and usually unduly charged with moisture, they suffer more severely from ground frost, which penetrates to a greater depth in moist than in comparatively dry earth. Thorough drainage and improvement mechanically by the addition of grit of any sort to the necessary extent, or charring the earth itself, if practicable, are the obvious corrections ; but efficient drainage ought to be first attended to in such cases. In preparing a new site for the cultivation of hardy perennials, it may not be necessary, if the soil is naturally rich, to add anything of a manurial kind in the process ; but in renewing old borders that have been long occupied by such plants, it will always be necessary to improve its condition to some extent by adding manure. Any tolerably well decomposed manure is suitable, but a renewal of the earth is, if practicable, even more desir-

able. In any case, the soil of old borders should be well trenched, and thoroughly pulverised and mixed.

"The proper time to plant herbaceous perennials depends on a variety of circumstances, but principally on the constitution of the plants themselves, and the nature of the soil and climate of the locality. The directions as to the time for division given in the descriptive part of this work under each subject are equally applicable as to the time for planting, and it will be safe to follow these directions as far as possible. Generally speaking, however, the mass of vigorous-growing perennials may be planted at any time after growth is nearly matured; and with skill and extra precautions, many that may be lifted with balls can be transplanted at any time short of or soon after the period of their greatest activity, if circumstances should render such a step necessary. Many bulbs, if carefully lifted, and the balls preserved, may be so managed even when in full flower, but such a course is not advisable nor often necessary; but the knowledge that it is practicable may be useful to those of small experience in such matters, when placed in circumstances calling on them to make alterations after growth is more or less active, in which the destruction or preservation of useful subjects is involved.

"The summer management of mixed borders does not involve many details. The vigorous-growing species, such as Delphiniums, Lupins, Pentstemons, autumnal Phloxes, and all of like luxuriant habit, are improved in the first bloom by having a moderate proportion of their stems thinned out early in the season; and there is often a second bloom induced thereby—not very considerable, perhaps, but it may be very opportune and welcome nevertheless. In any case, the flowering improves, and is prolonged by thinning judiciously. Timorous attention must be given to staking and training, else the usual consequences, in the form of tossed and tumbled plants, a general appearance of untidiness, with brief and worthless blooming, will ensue. The habit of the plant should be taken into account carefully when the supports are being applied to it, and, as far as circumstances will admit, its peculiarities should not be interfered with, except in the direction of improvement. The ordinary tight lumping up of all subjects to one stake in the same ungainly fashion, so often observed in mixed borders, is very objectionable; the only ground on which it can be excused in any case is, that the labour exceeds the capability of the force so much that any better or more tasteful practice cannot be attempted. But surely a little curtailment of extent, coupled with a little mechanical contrivance, would help to eke out the deficiency in two ways, and bring about a more pleasing state of things. A little curtailment in extent need not mean curtailment of species, for in most collections there are too many duplicates of sorts that it would be no great hardship to part with, and it would conduce to a greater concentration of the disposable time and attention; and in these days of cheap wire and invention, almost invisible supports may be had, so contrived as to make no greater demand on the labour in

the case of a large number of plants than that required in the setting of them up in a proper position, and there would thus be a considerable saving of time in tying, over and above the improvement in point of taste and orderliness, and other considerations bearing on these. Cleanliness—that is, freedom from weeds, and the timely removal of decaying foliage and flowers, and the seedy parts of plants—should have careful attention throughout the season. A constant eye should be kept on the weakly and rare subjects in the collection during spring, summer, and autumn, in order to anticipate disaster and loss, and as far as possible provide against it.

"The winter management of mixed borders is even more simple than that of summer. If the border has a groundwork of carpeting plants all over it, digging is happily impossible; and if not, it is objectionable. Supposing that the operation of digging could always be engaged in with safety to minute plants and bulbs, by the hands to which that work is usually committed, it is otherwise undesirable and unnecessary. Labels may serve as a protection to all plants that are unseen on the surface, if they are in the right place, but there is not always a warrant for that assumption; and even if they were always in the proper position, indiscriminate digging of the surface is not a very commendable practice. In a well-filled border there should not be much room to use the spade between the plants, except among the grosser and more vigorous subjects of the back line or two in wide borders; and the practice of digging among the closer planted and less vigorous ones of the front lines can be of no possible use but that of cutting up their roots, which, if desirable at all, should certainly be conducted with some judgment and selection, not wholesale and indiscriminately. If there is any necessity for curtailing the vigour and rampant encroachments of individual species or varieties, by all means let it be done by direct assault on their own persons, but spare their weaker neighbours. There are many vigorous encroaching species, which it will be a benefit to the border generally to lift and replant annually; the operator, however, always using his judgment as to when and to what extent the necessary crippling should be administered. In spaces left for the filling in of temporary occupants in summer, the spade may be used during winter in the interests of these occupants; but for no other purpose than this, and that of reducing the vigour of overgrown plants, should it be employed in the mixed border annually. A dressing of any light well-made compost, such as garden refuse, if it is not teeming with the legacies of seeding weeds, or leaf-mould and maiden loam in about equal proportions, may be annually applied to the surface during early winter, any time before that in which the earliest spring flowers begin to throw up. Winter being the period most suitable for effecting any changes that may be desirable in the position of the components, no favourable opportunity should be allowed to pass by without being taken advantage of, unless the changes contemplated affect any of the classes exempted from operations of the kind, before spring with a little growth and warmth sets in.

"It is a very common thing to leave a herbaceous border to itself—that is, undisturbed—for many years after it is planted. That is not cultivation, but letting well alone till it is no longer well. It is not a desirable thing to have to overhaul a collection of miscellaneous plants out of doors, with all its attendant discomforts at an inclement season; and it is equally undesirable to anticipate and bear the vexation consequent on the losses that often inevitably follow such a step. But it must be done occasionally—fortunately not very often in a lifetime if the soil is naturally good, and the annual culture liberal. The necessity for renewing a border occupied by mixed herbaceous plants must be judged of by the circumstances of the case. It is impossible to set down any rule for such a matter; but when the usual unmistakable signs of debility—a falling off in luxuriance and general effectiveness both in the profusion and duration of the flowers, with an apparently unaccountable death of one or more favourites—it is time to set about renewing the border. The necessity should be foreseen sufficiently long to be prepared for, by securing all diminutive and delicate subjects before winter sets in, either in pots in a cold frame, or merely laid into it in a little soil, where they will be safe for the winter. When the operation is begun, the stock left in the border should be lifted, and laid carefully in in some spot convenient to the border, taking care of the labels, if the collection is an extensive one; for the memory will fail one occasionally, and is the better of the assistance of these helps. The border should then be trenched, and enriched moderately with some well-decomposed manure; and any mechanical improvements necessary besides that of trenching should be attended to in the process. The soil should be allowed to consolidate a little before the replanting takes place, but should not be delayed longer than is necessary—only the delicate and small things may be left under protection till spring. It may not be too unimportant for those who have the means for availing themselves of it, to say that a comfortable snugger in the shape of a little rockwork or small reserve corner, with duplicates of the more valuable kinds always kept in stock in it, would save much annoyance and some expense at all times, and especially when a general renovation becomes necessary."¹

¹ 'Handbook of Hardy Herbaceous and Alpine Flowers,' by William Sutherland, pp. xxviii-xxxix.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE HARDY FLOWER-GARDEN—Continued.

ALPINE PLANTS — HARDY FERNS — AQUATICS, ETC.

A Selection of the best and most easily cultivated Alpine or Rockwork Plants.—In our gardens, the section usually going by the name of Alpine exhibits plants of many habits and widely diverse characters—from the English Lady's-slipper to the quaint and interesting little *Acæna* of New Zealand, with its long crimson spines. In common language, Alpine plants are understood to be such as grow on high mountains; but, as we generally collect them, a dwarf and beautiful little bulb of the Cape may stand beside that exquisite gem, *Gentiana bavarica*. As our selection of these will be limited, it shall be confined to what we may term the true Alpines—those little evergreen gems that enamel the higher mountain-ranges of Europe with a beauty which, compared with that of the great vegetations of hot countries, is as finest jewellery compared to massive brass-work. As they differ somewhat in tastes and capabilities, an explanatory word will be added here and there, as is considered necessary.

Acæna microphylla: A little plant, forming a dense carpet covered with singular crimson spikelets—as curious as it is charming.

Acantholimon glumaceum: A very pretty dwarf, and very hardy plant.

Achillea Clavennæ: This is a very interesting rockwork plant, and, from the fine coat of white down with which it is covered, looks like a green object veiled in white.

Achillea tomentosa: Forms beautiful silvery tufts, or carpeting for other plants. It produces pretty tufts of bright yellow flowers.

Æthionema cordifolium: A charming little spreading Alpine, with neat habit, glaucous foliage, and pretty soft pink flowers freely produced. It can be easily raised from seed, and loves a sandy loam.

Alyssum alpestre: Brilliant yellow, very free flowering, and neat in habit. The whole plant has a hoary appearance, and is studded with white shining hairs.

- Alyssum argenteum* : Grey leaves, flowers yellow. 1 foot. April and May.
 A good rock-plant.
- Alyssum montanum* : A very pretty and distinct plant, forming tufts about 4 inches high, and produces freely pretty yellow flowers.
- Alyssum speciosum* : Makes a very neat silvery bush—quite a fairy-looking plant.
- Alyssum spinosum* : A very pretty, compact, silvery little plant.
- Androsace carnea* : Among the prettiest of Androsaces, producing pretty rose flowers on small twiggy stems.
- Androsace Chamæjasme* : Dense clusters of white flowers with yellow eyes.
- Androsace lanuginosa* : Have seen this do beautifully in the open border in light sandy soil. Flowers lilac and white with yellow eyes; trailing white silvery foliage.
- Androsace pubescens* : Solitary white flowers, with hoary, hairy leaves. An excellent rockwork plant.
- Androsace pyrenaica* : Forms itself into neat grey rosettes or cushions, and produces white flowers—very desirable sort.
- Androsace villosa* : A small neat plant—white flowers, slightly tinted with pink.
- Antennaria dioica rosea* : Rosy pink—a little gem.
- Antennaria tomentosa* : Quite a gem for a dwarf silvery plant. Makes capital dwarf bands or edgings, but in moist places must be taken up and stored in dry frames.
- Anthyllis montana* : First rate either on rockwork or in the border—doing well even in the stiff London clay.
- Arenaria balearica* : This spreads itself into patches of dwarf green leaves, and is excellent for covering rockwork, and likes a dry situation.
- Arenaria purpurascens* : A most beautiful plant, with pale pink flowers and red stamens. Excellent for a moist part of rockwork.
- Arenaria verna* : Forms prostrate tufts, and produces in abundance starry white flowers.
- Aubrieta deltoidea grandiflora* : There are several Alpines in this natural order that usually take precedence of the Aubrietias; but, like the Iberises, they are best associated with herbaceous plants. *A. grandiflora* is named as one among many well worth growing, and as remarkably well suited for the embellishment of every kind of rockwork.
- Aubrieta purpurea variegata* : A very dwarf beautiful variety, with white variegated leaves and purple flowers. Exceedingly well adapted for rock-work and carpeting beds. Grows in any ordinary soil.
- Calandrinia umbellata* : This may be considered not strictly an Alpine, but it is, without question, the most glowingly coloured of all dwarf plants, being a dazzling magenta crimson. It thrives as a perennial in the chinks of rockwork; but as young plants bloom so abundantly, it is best to raise some plants every year from seed. It likes a fine sandy or peat soil. We know of nothing more useful for sprinkling over a rockwork in summer, its blooms are so attractive after the spring things are gone.
- Campanula cespitosa* : A most lovely dwarf blue Harebell, which should be in every collection of Alpine plants. Very fond of moisture.
- Campanula Elatines* : A little prostrate plant, with blue flowers—very pretty.
- Campanula gorganica* : A pretty downy plant, about 6 inches high, producing in the greatest profusion purple flowers with white centres.
- Campanula pulla* : Exceedingly pretty—blue and white variegated. Wherever much rockwork has to be covered, *C. pumila* and its white variety will be found very useful.
- Campanula pusilla* : A very pretty diminutive plant, with bright-green toothed leaves, and blue flower.
- Campanula turbinata* : A most interesting and beautiful plant, rigid in habit, and producing large purplish flowers.
- Cyclamen hederifolium* : This Cyclamen is perfectly hardy; both leaves and flowers are very effective on rockwork. The flowers are red, and appear from August to the end of September.

- Dianthus alpinus* : One of the loveliest Alpines in cultivation, with large and beautiful deep rose-coloured flowers spotted with crimson. It thrives best in peat or rich sandy loam, and with moisture.
- Dianthus cassinii* : A beautiful native plant for growing on walls and the driest parts of rockeries. It has beautiful glaucous leaves and rose-coloured flowers.
- Dianthus dentosus* : 6 inches, with large purplish flowers—very beautiful ; flowers May to July.
- Dianthus glacialis* : 4 inches, rose-coloured, very neat.
- Dianthus neglectus* : Among the prettiest of Alpine plants, with pretty glaucous leaves and flowers of the most brilliant rose.
- Dianthus petraeus* : The true dwarf form of this is a first-rate Alpine, growing freely on the ground as well as on the rockwork, and producing abundance of deep-rose flowers. It will grow and make neat cushiony masses where most other species of pinks last but a very short time. There are other sweet things in this order, but those named are the best.
- Dryas octopetala* : An interesting evergreen shrubby dwarf plant with white flowers, growing freely in common garden soil, and also on rockwork.
- Erinus alpinus* : We have never seen this plant do so well as when it gets into a piece of old wall. It will cover several feet with a dense moss-like growth, and produce a perfect mass of pretty rosy-purple flowers. It likes dry quarters, and it sows itself freely.
- Erysimum ochroleucum* : Forms rich tufts of green, from 8 to 9 inches high ; flowers yellow, in great profusion.
- Gaultheria procumbens* : This, though a tiny shrubby plant, is, when grown fully exposed, instead of in shade as usual, and covered with its red berries, one of the prettiest objects that can be seen among dwarf plants on rock-work.
- Gentiana acaulis* : Dwarf tufts, flowers of the most brilliant blue. April and May.
- Gentiana bavarica* : This is a most beautiful Gentian, with smaller foliage than *verna*, and produces flowers of the most brilliant blue.
- Gentiana verna* : An exquisite native Alpine, much neglected, but not difficult to grow in very gritty moist soil. Rapid drainage and a rapid supply of moisture are necessary to its thorough wellbeing. Brilliant blue flowers. *G. acaulis* is too well known to need recommending here, and *G. pyrenaica* is a beautiful one.
- Iberis corifolia* : A dwarf-growing species, attaining the height of 4 to 6 inches, and produces most profusely in May its pure white flowers.
- Iberis correafolia* : A compact variety, with abundance of large white flowers in May and June.
- Linaria alpina* : A procumbent silvery-leaved plant, having violet flowers with scarlet throats. Sows itself freely, and is easily grown.
- Linum alpinum* : A lovely little species, from 6 to 9 inches high, producing large blue flowers in July.
- Lithospermum prostratum* : When well established and deeply rooted in veins of good soil on a rockwork, this is one of the loveliest deep-blue evergreen rock-plants in cultivation.
- Mazus Pumilio* : A very pretty-coloured and dense-growing little plant.
- Myosotis alpestris* : A dwarf variety ; very bright blue. Requires a moist position.
- Myosotis rupicola* : A most beautiful species—perhaps the finest of the genus ; forms dwarf dense tufts, covered with its deep brilliant blue flowers. Requires a good supply of moisture.
- Nertera depressa* : Forms dwarf dense tufts of green, and covers itself with coral berries, which last a long time. A very beautiful plant.
- Nierembergia rivularis* : A very dwarf trailing plant, keeping up a long continuation of pretty white blossoms mingling with its foliage. Is best lifted and potted in winter.
- Phlox Nelsonii*, white ; *Phlox frondosa*, pink ; *Phlox verna*, rose ; *Phlox procumb-*

- bens, purple; *Phlox nivalis*, white. These are very charming dwarf-growing and free-flowering plants, are very effective, and grow well in rockwork.
- Phlox reptans*: A very procumbent *Phlox*, producing large purplish-rose flowers early in May.
- Phlox subulata*: Forms dense moss-like tufts with purplish-pink flowers.
- Potentilla nitida*: A dwarf silvery-leaved plant, about 3 inches high, with light rose flowers.
- Primula ciliata*: Purple—fine.
- Primula farinosa*: Few plants are more lovely than this, forming tufts of silvery leaves with pinkish-crimson flowers, supported on white powdered stems. It likes plenty of moisture in summer, but requires thorough drainage, otherwise it will suffer in winter.
- Primula marginata*: Large heads of dark lilac flowers.
- Primula minima*: A very diminutive Primrose, bearing large rose-coloured flowers. Does best in a light peaty soil.
- Primula nivea*: A charming white—easy to grow.
- Saponaria ocymoides*: Pink—easily grown, and does well in the ordinary herbaceous border, but is a useful rockwork plant for hanging over ledges.
- Saxifraga aretioides*: A beautiful tufty, hairy *Saxifrage*, with pretty yellow flowers—very dwarf.
- Saxifraga caesia*: Exceedingly dwarf and pretty.
- Saxifraga cristata*: Large foliage, narrow, rigid, and edged with white.
- Saxifraga hypnoides*, or any of its varieties or allies, such as *hirta*, *affinis*, and *decipiens*, is excellent for furnishing a vivid green carpet in winter.
- Saxifraga juniperina*: Very distinct, dense, spiny tufts, with yellow flowers.
- Saxifraga lingulata*: A charming rock-plant, like *longifolia*.
- Saxifraga longifolia*: The king of all *Saxifrages*, forming immense rosette-like tufts of lineal-shaped leaves margined with white spots, with immense spikes of pure white flowers. An excellent plant for planting in the chink of a rock or wall, where its roots can strike down deeply; and it grows luxuriantly in any common light garden soil.
- Saxifraga Mansfeldii*: A free-flowering green-leaved kind—very good.
- Saxifraga oppositifolia*, and varieties: Nothing can be prettier in rockwork.
- Saxifraga pyramidalis*: A handsome variety, throwing up racemes of white flowers; 1 to 1½ foot.
- Saxifraga rosularia* and *S. pectinata* are both beautiful compact growers, resembling *longifolia*, but less, and more compact and dwarf. Among other dwarf *Saxifrages* worthy of a place among select rockwork plants are *intacta*, *pectinata*, *tazetta*, *Mayallii*, *nervosa*, *gibraltarica*.
- Sedum Ewersii*; *Sedum elegans*; *Sedum sempervivoides*; *Sedum dasypyllosum*; *Sedum hispanicum*; *Sedum rupestre*; *Sedum lividum*.
- Sempervivum arenarium*; *Sempervivum arachnoideum*; *Sempervivum californicum*; *Sempervivum globiferum*; *Sempervivum hirsutum*; *Sempervivum montanum*; *Sempervivum soboliferum*; *Sempervivum tectorum*.—These two genera are all beautiful rockwork plants, and of the easiest culture.
- Silene acaulis*: This is sometimes very pretty when grown in pans for the cold-frame arrangement, and it also produces a very dwarf verdant cushion on rockwork. It rarely, however, flowers so freely in a cultivated state as it does on its native mountains, where it forms large masses of its rose-coloured flowers.
- Silene alpestris*: A beautiful white-flowering dwarf plant. Not particular as to situation and soil, but should not be often disturbed. Excellent for rockwork. Then there are *S. schafta*, *S. pennsylvanica*, *S. pumila*.
- Soldanella alpina*; *Soldanella Clusii*; *Soldanella montana*; *Soldanella minima*: A charming little group. They like a pure sandy loam, or peaty soil and moisture; and they sometimes do well in the common border, when left undisturbed for a time.
- Thalictrum minus*: Like the Maiden-hair Fern in general appearance; small, white, insignificant flowers in June.

Rock-Plants.—The following instructive remarks on cultivating this interesting order of plants are extracted from a list of Alpine plants published by Messrs Backhouse of York, than whom few are more fit to instruct on this subject; and any one who wants a more extensive collection than we have named, cannot do better than consult such a catalogue. And those who want to make Alpine plants a special study and pleasure, cannot do better than consult the last edition of Mr Robinson's work on the Alpine garden.

"The past two years have only confirmed our opinion that no form of horticulture surpasses, or indeed equals in interest, the cultivation of these Alpine gems. And even now, instead of revelling in the sight of *masses* such as nature exhibits in the wild regions where these plants are found, we are limited to little tufts or fragments, that, enchanting as they are, only convey to the mind a faint idea of what is yet in store for us. Think of a sheet of *Silene acaulis*, measured last year on one of the Westmoreland mountains, *five feet across!* and imagine the effect of such a mass when in full bloom; for it not unfrequently happens that the pink, or rose-coloured, or crimson flowers of this plant are so densely clustered together as to form a solid mass of colour. And why should not our gardens be thus adorned? Time only is required; for by far the larger proportion of Alpine plants are easy to cultivate, and even while small, abundantly repay the small amount of labour that is requisite. With something less than 25s. worth of rocks (costing here 9s. per ton) we have formed a rocky bank upon which many scores of choice Alpines thrive admirably; for though contact with the rock is necessary for some, it is not needful for all. The improved drainage afforded by a bank 3 or 4 feet high (in the composition of which a large proportion of rough sand should be generally used) quite suffices for the wants of many species; as, though 'true mountaineers,' they inhabit the glades and plateaux of Alpine regions, where there is often a large area of rich vegetable soil without rock.

"One thing must constantly be borne in mind, that it is an error to suppose that 'little plants' require but very shallow soil. As narrow a crack or crevice as you please, only it must lead to an abundant supply for deeply-rooting, hungry fibres, that hate both 'starvation' and the irregularity of temperature and moisture inseparable from shallow soil. *Gentiana verna* is a *little* plant, its tuft of leaves rarely attaining the elevation of an inch; but we are not exceeding the truth in saying that it both likes, and apparently requires for full development, *eighteen inches depth at least* of rich fibrous loam, interspersed thickly with blocks of limestone! It is almost impossible to get 'to the bottom' of its far-rooting tiny threads in a native locality. And the same rule holds good with multitudes, and cannot be too closely attended to. Any kind of stone will do

for rockwork, but sandstone (millstone-grit) is the best. Where limestone is preferable (as with the Gentians) it is generally specially stated in the catalogue.

"A host of beauties are usually ready to expand their blossoms with the earliest days of spring, and frequently even among the snow. For a fortnight past (beginning with the last week in the old year), scores of pots of the lovely *Anemone apennina* have expanded their large blue flowers with us on a northern border, in spite of frost and snow. They always appear to bloom sooner in such a position than with a southern exposure—we presume by 'wintering' earlier.

"A very large proportion of the most showy species may be grown in an ordinary border in common soil; and nearly the *whole* range of Alpine plants (which constitute one of the most interesting class of perennials) *may also be grown well in pots* where a garden is devoid of the *rockwork*, which best represents their natural 'element.' Whether cultivated in pots or on rockwork, it may be well here to state that, after long experience, and far too much of that kind of 'misfortune' which usually attends 'experimenting' upon new plants, we find that, as a rule, it is an error to place in the shade in summer, for the sake of coolness, those species which inhabit very high mountain regions. These plants, as a class, hate the soft, humid, 'lifeless' atmosphere which shady situations in low districts afford. Living naturally on lofty ridges, they are constantly exposed to high winds, and an atmosphere of crystalline clearness, through which the sun's rays dart down with a vehemence which often heats the rocks till you can scarcely bear to touch them. This brilliant sunshine in the daytime, alternating with excessively heavy dews or sharp frosts at night, are the *summer conditions* of a large number of the rarest and most beautiful species in their native abodes. And these, born near vast fields of perpetual snow, receive a rapid and permanent supply of moisture at the roots, which is checked only when wintry winds again bind everything in a mass of ice.

"Very rapid and perfect drainage, combined with an equally rapid and continuous supply of water, are therefore essential to thoroughly healthy development. On rockwork this may be easily accomplished by allowing water to escape from a pipe at or near the highest point, in a very slender stream, or 'fast drop,' which will keep a large 'district' below both more humid and cooler than when similar effects are aimed at by ordinary watering. Some species—such, for instance, as *Eritrichium nanum*, *Androsace lanuginosa*, *Cerastium alpinum*, and those plants generally which have silky or cottony foliage—evidently dislike having their leaves wet by artificial means, especially in winter; as, in a wild state, they are either buried during that season in dry snow, or subjected to frosts which destroy every particle of moisture. These must either be planted where an overhanging ledge protects from snow and rain, or be grown in pots, which can be placed under a glass frame admitting full ventilation in winter. Not that these plants are tender—they are nearly as 'hardy' as the rocks

themselves ; but their winter Alpine atmosphere is dry, till the spring thaw sets in.

"There are many Alpine plants which are found chiefly (and perhaps some exclusively) in the grit of decomposed rocks carried down by torrents, &c. In this there is sometimes very little admixture of earth, though what little there is is usually of the richest kind.

"Crushed millstone-grit, or coarse sandstone, forms an excellent substitute, and should, if possible, be largely mingled with the soil of a 'rock-work.' For some Alpines we use equal parts of grit and earth—a mixture of rich loam and peat or leaf-mould. If not procurable, river-sand is the best substitute. Some species grow well in almost pure grit. There are, however, not a few, we have recently ascertained, which, though found in grit ('*in glareosis alpium*') in a wild state, thrive better under cultivation if placed in pure loam in a fissure of rock. The simple reason seems to be, that they are frozen dry, and *kept* dry for months, in their own land in winter ; while, when planted on rockwork, they are necessarily exposed to constant moisture during the winter months with us. The loam, from its compactness, does not receive or retain moisture so much as sandy or gritty soil, so that, though unnatural in one sense, it is *more* natural in another. *Senecio incanus*, *S. carniolicus*, *Achillæa Clavennæ*, and others of this order, illustrate it well. Their tendency to 'damp off' in winter is notorious, and we believe may be largely rectified by this means.

"Another most important subject is to suspend the abundant supply of moisture, essential for health in spring and summer (in imitation of the melting of Alpine snows), when the annual growth is made, so as to coax the plants 'to be quiet' as far as possible, and prevent a second and enfeebling growth. This seems very important to the Alpine Gentians, and to the rare *Eritrichium nanum*. Natural rains will, as a rule, suffice after the end of August, and earlier if the weather be rainy. All artificial irrigation, except for bog plants, should then cease."

The Hardy Fernery.—This is one of the most delightful departments of a pleasure-garden. To retire from the full glare of noon, and the flower-garden, with all its brilliant colours and somewhat stiff and formal trimness, into cool retirement, perhaps on the north side of a wall or rock, or under the shade of spreading trees, in which Ferns generally delight and luxuriate, makes a most refreshing change to both body and mind. The beautiful forms and varied shades of green which the Fern tribe present, are acknowledged as one of the most pleasing treats of the garden. To correspond both with the requirements of Ferns generally, and that situation which the mind associates with these denizens of shade and rock, the fernery should occupy some quiet and shady, and, if possible, romantic retreat. Where the ground presents no

romantic features, they are so easily produced with the aid of hillocks and banks of soil, and tree roots and stumps, and rough stones—all of which may be worthless for aught else but to form a rugged, natural-looking site for the Fern—that scarcely any need want the pleasure derivable from a fernery.

The following list comprises mostly British varieties, as being both most beautiful and hardy, as well as easily obtained. The few exotics enumerated are also very beautiful and hardy. Many more might be mentioned as being half-hardy—that is, requiring protection in winter and in spring when commencing to grow; but we have avoided enumerating any except the perfectly hardy. Those who wish to study them minutely cannot do better than get Mr Moore's work on Ferns.

List of British Ferns and Varieties for Hardy Fernery.

Deciduous.

Allosorus crispus (Parsley Fern).

Grows from 6 to 9 inches in a stony dry situation.

Evergreen.

<i>Asplenium Trichomanes,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	6 to 9 inches.
" "	var. <i>cristatum,</i>	.	.	.	.	4 to 6 "
" "	var. <i>Moulei,</i>	.	.	.	.	4 to 6 "

These do not like either much shade or moisture; they are perhaps better grown in pots.

Deciduous.

Athyrium Filix-femina (the Lady Fern).

" "	var. <i>contortum,</i>	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ feet.
" "	var. <i>coronatum,</i>	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ "
" "	var. <i>crispum,</i>	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ "
" "	var. <i>defissum multifidum,</i>	.	.	.	.	1½ "
" "	var. <i>Elworthii,</i>	.	.	.	.	2 to 2½ "
" "	var. <i>Fieldiae,</i>	.	.	.	.	1½ to 2 "
" "	var. <i>Frizelliae,</i>	.	.	.	.	1½ to 2 "
" "	var. <i>grandiceps,</i>	.	.	.	.	6 to 9 in.
" "	var. <i>Grantiae,</i>	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ feet.
" "	var. <i>plumosum,</i>	.	.	.	.	2 to 2½ "
" "	var. <i>multifidum,</i>	.	.	.	.	2 to 3 "
" "	var. <i>Vernoniae,</i>	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ "
" "	var. <i>Victoriae,</i>	.	.	.	.	2 to 2½ "

These all delight in a good loamy and leaf-mould soil, and should be in the dampest part of the fernery. They delight in a shady, calm atmosphere; exposed to either sun or much wind, they are easily spoiled.

Evergreen.

<i>Blechnum spicant</i> (Hard Fern),	.	.	.	.	.	6 to 12 in.
" "	var. <i>concinnum,</i>	.	.	.	.	6 to 12 "
" "	var. <i>cristatum,</i>	.	.	.	.	6 to 12 "
" "	var. <i>projectum,</i>	.	.	.	.	6 to 12 "

Blechnum spicant, var. heterophyllum,	6 to 12 in.
" " var. imbricatum,	6 to 12 "

A good loam and peat, and an exposed part of the fernery, will answer for this sort.

Deciduous.

Cystopteris fragilis (Bladder Fern),	6 to 9 in.
" " var. Dickieana,	4 to 6 "
" " var. montana,	4 to 6 "
" " var. rhetica,	6 to 9 "

These like shade, and a dry stony bottom; they like to grow among stones.

Nearly Evergreen.

Lastrea Filix-mas (Male Fern), var. crispa,	6 to 12 in.
" " var. Barnesii,	2 to 2½ feet.
" " var. cristata,	2 to 3 "
" " var. cristata angustata,	1½ to 2 "
" " var. furcans,	2 to 3 "
" " var. Pindarii,	2 to 2½ "
" " var. polydactyle,	2 to 3 "

These will grow in almost any soil,—good strong loam and peat or leaf mould suits well; they stand more exposure than the Lady Fern.

Evergreen.

Lastrea semula,	9 to 12 in.
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Nearly Evergreen.

Lastrea cristata,	1½ to 2 feet.
" " var. uliginosa,	1½ to 2 "
" dilatata, var. angustipinnula,	1½ to 2 "
" " var. Chanterise,	2 to 3 "
" " var. cristata,	1½ to 2 "
" " var. lepidota,	1 to 1½ "
" spinulosa,	1½ to 2 "

These like a good rich loam and leaf-mould; they delight to grow among mossy shady banks.

Deciduous.

Lastrea montana,	2 to 3 feet.
" Thelypteris.	

These like a damp cool situation.

Osmunda regalis (the Royal Fern),	3 to 4 feet.
" " var. cristata,	2 to 3 "

In peat and loam, and plenty of moisture when growing.

Polypodium alpestre (Pseudathyrium alpestre),	2 to 3 feet.
" " var. flexile,	1 to 1½ "

Similar situation to the Lady Fern.

Polypodium Dryopteris (Oak Fern),	6 to 9 in.
" Phegopteris (Beech Fern),	9 to 12 "
" Robertianum (calcareum),	9 to 12 "

These like a shaded cool situation, but not too damp.

Evergreen.

<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> , var. <i>crenatum</i>,	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ foot.
" " var. <i>cambricum</i>,	.	.	.	.	9 to 12 in.
" " var. <i>cristatum</i>,	.	.	.	.	6 to 9 "
" " var. <i>omnilacerum</i>,	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ foot.
" " var. <i>pulcherrimum</i>,	.	.	.	.	9 to 12 in.
" " var. <i>semilacerum</i>,	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ foot.

These like a stiff clay soil mixed with stones, and a dry situation; the roots delight to cling to any hard substance.

<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>,	.	.	.	.	2 to 2½ feet.
" " var. <i>proliferum</i>,	.	.	.	.	2 "
" <i>angulare</i>,	.	.	.	.	2 to 3 "
" " var. <i>Bayliæ</i>,	.	.	.	.	1½ to 2 "
" " var. <i>cristatum</i>,	.	.	.	.	2 to 2½ "
" " var. <i>imbricatum</i>,	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ "
" " var. <i>gracile</i>,	.	.	.	.	2 to 2½ "
" " var. <i>grandidens</i>,	.	.	.	.	1½ to 2 "
" " var. <i>grandiceps</i>,	.	.	.	.	1 to 1½ "
" " var. <i>lineare</i>,	.	.	.	.	2 to 2½ "
" " var. <i>proliferum</i>,	.	.	.	.	1½ to 2 "
" " var. " <i>Wollastonii</i> ,	.	.	.	2 to 3	"

The Polystichums all like a good, rich, loamy soil, with plenty of shingly stones intermixed; they like a moderate shade, but a dry bottom.

<i>Scolopendrium vulgare</i> (<i>Hart's Tongue</i>), var. <i>bimarginatum-cordatum</i> ,	.	.	.	6 to 9 in.
" " var. <i>contractum</i> ,	.	.	.	9 to 12 "
" " var. <i>crista-galli</i> ,	.	.	.	12 to 18 "
" " var. <i>crispum</i> ,	.	.	.	9 to 12 "
" " var. <i>digitatum</i> ,	.	.	.	6 to 9 "
" " var. <i>fissum</i> ,	.	.	.	6 to 9 "
" " var. <i>laceratum</i> ,	.	.	.	9 to 12 "
" " var. <i>ramosum majus</i> ,	.	.	.	12 to 18 "
" " var. <i>subcornutum</i> ,	.	.	.	6 to 9 "

All the Scolopendriums like a good strong loam mixed with leaf-mould or peat; they like plenty of water when growing, but should be in a dry part of the fernery.

Besides the foregoing British Ferns, which are selected as not difficult to cultivate, and which are all exceedingly beautiful, there are a good many natives of other countries which prove perfectly hardy here.

Adiantum pedatum.
Adiantum venustum.
Asplenium angustifolium.
Athyrium purpureum.
Athyrium strigillosum.
Botrychium virginicum.
Lastrea atrata.
Lastrea decurrens.
Lastrea Goldieana.
Lastrea opaca.
Lastrea thelypteroides.
Lomaria chilensis.
Lomaria crenulata.

Lomaria fluviatilis.
Osmunda cinnamomea.
Platyloma rotundifolia.
Polypodium virginicum.
Polypodium vulgare canariense.
Polystichum Braunii.
Polystichum setosum.
Pteris aquilina americana.
Pteris scaberula.
Woodwardia angustifolia.
Woodwardia areolata.
Woodwardia orientalis.

All these are hardy, and thrive in ordinary light sandy loam, with a mixture of peat, sand, and well-decayed mould ; and if some freestone chips can be mixed in, they retain moisture, and the roots of Ferns delight to cling around them.

Aquatics or Water-Plants.—There are few gardens in which there is not a piece of water, however small; but in many instances, instead of being either useful or ornamental, this is allowed to become a cesspool of malaria and rottenness. The great mistake committed in introducing small pieces of water into small gardens, is the formation of them in places where they are exposed to the full sun all day long. This is sure to produce scum and rottenness, unless the supply of fresh water be constant and in considerable quantity. If, instead of forming such ponds in fully exposed situations, they were situated in partial shade, and a supply of water, however little, constantly kept up from even a tap, they would always be fresh and beautiful; and when planted with suitable plants, and stocked with some gold and silver fish, they form one of the most interesting features of a garden.

To all who want to learn the full particulars of the aquarium, both indoors and out, we would strongly recommend the 'Book of the Aquarium,' by Mr Shirley Hibberd, editor of the 'Gardener's Magazine,' who has the rare gift of interesting with his pen while he gives substantial instruction.

List of Select Aquatic Plants.—In no section of ornamental plants do we see more worthless weeds included than in this. Looked at from a horticultural point of view, there are not a great many that are worth cultivating; and as this selection is intended for the smaller gardens, in which much extent of water is impracticable, it is intentionally limited, and embraces good flowering plants only.

Aponogeton distachyon : One of the very sweetest of plants—may be seen abundant in a pond in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. It is a great ornament to a fountain-basin—rather tender.

Butomus umbellatus : The flowering rush—too well known to require remark; pink.

Calla palustris : Very pretty and distinct—in all respects a first-class mud or aquatic plant, and sends up its little miniature Lilies of the Nile all along the length of its trailing stems, and just high enough to be seen over the bright, shining, green foliage.

Caltha palustris : This is common, but too showy to be omitted. There is a double variety, also very beautiful—excellent for the margins of water.

Hottonia palustris—the Water Violet : Is exceedingly pretty when well managed. It thrives best on the surface of soft mud, which it greens over as if covered with moss.

Lythrum roseum superbum, *Lythrum salicaria*, are most showy plants, and flourish amazingly when planted by the sides of water, and also as border plants. Where anything like effective bloom is sought by the sides of water, these should be planted.

Menyanthes nymphæoides—fringed Bog Bean : A somewhat rare British plant, 3 feet high, with yellow axillary flowers.

Menyanthes trifoliata—the common Bog Bean : This is a much neglected but lovely native plant. Every piece of garden or park water ought to have some of their parts fringed with it.

Nuphar advena : A bold and valuable water-plant.

We need scarcely enumerate the beautiful British White Water-Lily—that is almost sure to be known and grown by all possessed of a garden ; and so probably is the yellow.

Nuphar lutea : There are two smaller species worth a place—*Nuphar pumila*, and the smaller form of the *Nymphaea*.

Orontium aquaticum : A somewhat rare but exquisite aquatic of the Arum tribe, and more interesting than most of them that are hardy. The side of a pond or fountain-basin is best for it. It should be carefully attended to till well established.

Pontederia cordata : A stout and perfectly hardy blue flowering aquatic.

Potamogeton fluitans : The floating pond-weed.

Sagittaria latifolia : Among the very best water-plants. When well grown it is more like a double white rocket than anything to which it can be compared, only that the blooms, though individually larger than the rocket, are not so closely set. It likes a mud bottom, and forms tubers the shape and size of pigeons' eggs.

Sparganium ramosum, *Sparganium simplex*—Burr Reeds : Tufted-looking plants, which bear Burr-like heads of fruit.

Villarsia nymphæoides : A fine yellow aquatic, which makes the surface of the water quite gay with flowers when the sun is out.

In planting aquatics, a good plan is to tie a piece of turf round the roots, and drop them into the water, to the bottom of which they sink, and establish themselves in the mud deposited there.

CHAPTER IX.

THE HARDY FLOWER-GARDEN—Continued.

**EARLY-FLOWERING CHRYSANTHEMUMS—DELPHINIUMS—DIANTHUS
BARBATUS—PEONIAS—PHLOXES—PYRETHRUMS—TRITOMA.**

Chrysanthemums.—There are now so many very effective varieties of early-flowering Chrysanthemums, that they well deserve and repay attention and careful culture as border-flowering plants. Being more nearly allied to hardy than to tender subjects, we class them among the former, because they are so hardy that in those parts of the kingdom more favoured with climate, they stand all winter in open borders and by walls and other fences, and even in the cold districts require nothing more than some temporary protection, or at most the shelter of a cold frame, and are therefore suited to the million. We strongly recommend those who have not grown them, to turn their attention to them.

The management that suffices to produce an effective display of these Chrysanthemums in beds and mixed borders is very simple. We grow them extensively in a very indifferent climate, and find them most useful in a variety of ways. In the autumn of 1885 we lifted a quantity of old stools, when past flowering about the end of October, of Precocité and Madame Desgrange—two of the very best of them, and laid them in some light soil in a cold frame. In the end of April, when they had grown considerably, and had furnished us with quantities of cuttings, they were planted out after dividing the balls, and they produced a most abundant supply of flowers from the end of August to the beginning of November. We give this instance by way of showing how very easily they may be managed.

In the cold frame, they should get all the air possible when the weather is mild ; and in cold localities, a single mat or a little litter should be thrown over them in time of hard frost. They commence throwing up fresh growths in early spring, and when a few inches long the necessary number of cuttings can be taken and put into pans or boxes of light sandy soil and placed in a temperature a little warmer than that of a greenhouse, when they strike very quickly. They do equally well in a cold frame,—only in a slightly warmer place they can be grown into stronger plants more rapidly ; and the stronger they are when planted out, as soon as all danger of such frost as would injure them is over, the sooner they begin flowering, and the longer their season of usefulness. Those varieties that bloom sufficiently early not to require any particular treatment, we usually strike in boxes and let them remain without potting them till they are ready to plant out. They are topped once, to cause them to branch and be more dwarf. Such varieties as bloom later are potted off singly into 4 or 5 inch pots, according to their strength. These plant out of pots with balls entire and get no check, and consequently bloom earlier than if shaken out of pans and boxes. Even the potting of the later varieties may not be necessary in better climates, so that altogether a stock of plants can be got up with little trouble. We have been in the habit of using the young plants for beds and lines, and the old stools for mixed borders, and they are not lifted again.

These early-blooming Chrysanthemums are most effective border-plants, and most serviceable for yielding quantities of cut flowers for two or three months in autumn. A number of plants can be planted in nursery beds, or even kept in pots ; and as herbaceous plants and bulbs go out of flower or die down, the Chrysanthemums can be lifted with balls and used for filling up the gaps, and in such positions they are very telling. A spadeful of rich soil should be placed round their roots when planted, and in all cases they are most satisfactory when planted in rich soil. The following are among the most useful varieties :—

Early-Flowering Varieties suitable for Beds and mixed Borders.

Those marked * are the earliest.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Anastasio, magenta. | * La Petite Marie, pure white—very
dwarf and bushy. |
| * Fiberti, lemon yellow. | La Vallée, pure white. |
| * Frederick Pele, crimson tipped with
gold. | Lyon, deep rosy purple. |

* Madam Chabackar, rosy purple.	Nanum, blush.
* Madame Desgrange, white.	* Precocité, bright yellow.
* Madame Piccol, rosy purple.	* Scarlet Gem, maroon red.
Mdlle. Jolivert, pure white.	* St Mary, white.
Mrs W. Piercy, red, changing to bronze brown.	Wermig, primrose yellow. Zenobe, bright orange-yellow.

Later Flowering Varieties that should be planted against Walls.

Bouquet Fait, soft rose.	Mrs Dixon, yellow.
Daimio, lilac.	Mrs G. Rundle, white.
Dr Macary, rosy pink.	Phidias, rosy blush.
Golden Christine, golden buff.	Pink Christine, pink.
Golden Circle, yellow.	Pink Venus, pink.
King of Crimsons, rich crimson.	Rosinante, crimson.
Lord Alcester, primrose.	Snowdrop, white.
Mons. Henri Jacotot, brownish crimson.	White Trevenna, white.

Delphiniums.—Considering how, it may be said, surpassingly effective and imposing this class of hardy perennials is, it is matter for regret and wonder that they do not generally receive more particular attention than is bestowed upon them. They are deserving of, and suitable for, cultivation in every garden, large and small, from the cottager's to the peer's. The great variety of their heights, varying as they do from 1 to 6 feet high—the equally great variety of their shades of colour, from almost scarlet to pure white, from the palest and most chaste lavender up through every conceivable shade of blue to deep indigo—and the very considerable variety of size and form of their individual blooms, some of which are single, semi-double, and perfectly double, and set on spikes ranging from 1 to 6 feet in length,—render them objects of great value as decorative border-plants; and for cutting, either in immense spikes for some forms of decoration, or in smaller lateral twigs for bouquets and vases, they are most useful.

The combinations in which they can be placed in borders are numerous. Nothing can be more beautiful than, say, a line of *D. formosum* with a line in front of it of some pale or white coloured *Phlox*; or, planted alternately in a line, the combination is very effective. I will never forget the magnificent effect I once saw in Mr Parker's nursery at Tooting, near London, produced by a line of *Delphiniums* and *Acer Negundo variegatum* planted thus in a long line. A very effective way of showing off the charming shades of blue in the *Delphinium* is to plant it alternately in a line with the old and far too much neglected Gardener's Garter. When so planted to back up a mixed border, the effect of the *Delphiniums* and any light foliated or flowering plant is very charming.

Delphiniums are of course perfectly hardy, and can be cultivated in any ordinary garden soil. They are propagated from cuttings detached from the stools when 6 inches high; or when the stools become large, they can be lifted and divided like any ordinary herbaceous plant. The ground for them should be rich, open, and deep. When young plants are planted out in spring, in soils where slugs abound, the buds or crowns are apt to be devoured by them in winter; consequently it is, under such circumstances, well to lift them and lay them for the winter in some sandy soil in the reserve ground, where they can be more conveniently seen to. This is only necessary until they form large and vigorous stools. It is well to lift them every two or three years, and thoroughly work the ground, adding some leaf-mould or dung, and to replant them. This is best done just about the time the crowns begin to move in early spring. In favourable seasons, if they are not allowed to seed, they generally throw a second crop of flowers late in the season; and the spikes being smaller and more twiggy, they are then most valuable for cutting, as well as very effective in the borders. There are now a great many varieties, and the following are among the most useful and effective:—

Agamemnon, lavender blue, suffused with rose; centre white and orange; flowers very large. A splendid variety; 3 feet.

Alopecuroides, bronzy blue, 3 feet.

Amabilis, azure blue, changing to rosy lilac; white and orange centre; height 5 feet; spike 18 inches, producing freely lateral flower-spikes in very strong stems; flowers single, very large. A very distinct and beautiful variety.

Amadée Hans, brilliant shining blue; light centre; flowers very double and well formed; 3 feet.

Argus, azure blue, striped and tipped with rose; double; densely placed on spikes; 3 feet.

Barlowii multicolor, dark blue; orange centre; flowers large and double; stems very much branched; 3 feet; very fine.

Barlowii perfection, very rich indigo-blue and crimson; flowers double, very large, densely placed on large spikes; 2 feet.

Beatsonii, violet, with reddish centre; flowers very double, produced in great profusion; extra fine; 2 feet.

Belladonna, light blue; very pleasing; 2½ feet.

Bicolor, very bright blue, with white centre; flower-spikes freely branched; 3½ feet.

Bicolor grandiflorum, light blue; white centre; 3½ feet; extra fine.

C. Glym, very bright blue; rosy lilac and white centre; extra fine; 3½ feet.

Celestial.—This is a grand variety, ultramarine blue, with velvety brown centre, height 5 feet, producing centre spikes 18 inches long, with numerous lateral spikes besides; flowers large, and closely set on spikes.

Coronet, dark blue, with purple and orange centre; good habit; extra fine; 2 feet.

Couronne Bleue, fine blue; 3 feet.

Ernest Roux, rich violet; a very effective variety; 3½ feet.

Figaro, light blue; 3 feet.

- Formosum, and its varieties belladonna and liliacum, are all most effective, and should be in every collection ; 2 to 3 feet.
- General Ulrich, cobalt blue ; 3 feet.
- Gloire de St Mande, brilliant blue ; petals suffused with crimson ; flowers extra large, produced in long branching spikes ; 3 feet ; extra fine.
- Grandiflorum plenum, rich dark shining blue ; flowers double, free ; a continuous bloomer.
- Hendersonii, brilliant blue ; centre white ; flowers large, borne in great profusion for months in succession ; habit neat ; excellent variety for beds and lines ; 2 feet.
- Hermann Stenger, outer petals bright violet blue ; centre petals rosy pink, large, very double ; a very distinct and beautiful variety ; 4 feet.
- Jules Bourgeoise, cobalt blue, suffused with pink ; orange and brown centre ; stems freely branched ; a fine double variety ; 3½ feet.
- Keteleeri, a very distinct and beautiful variety, lavender blue, tinted with reddish lilac ; double ; produced very freely on dense spikes ; 3½ feet.
- L. Neuvreau, clear violet ; white centre ; 3½ feet.
- La Belle Alliance, violet blue ; white and orange centre ; flowers very large ; extra fine ; 4 feet.
- Louis Figuier, rosy violet and blue ; large, semi-double, extra fine ; 3 feet.
- Madame E. Geny, reddish purple, tipped with blue ; centre blue and white ; very distinct and beautiful ; 4 feet.
- Madame Henry Jacotot, bright azure blue, suffused with delicate pink ; very distinct ; 4 feet.
- Magnificum, very brilliant blue ; white and orange centre ; a very abundant and continuous flowerer ; 4 feet.
- M. le Bihan, outer petals bright blue, inner ones rosy purple ; flower-spikes 18 inches long, with many lateral spikes besides ; flowers semi-double, set closely in the spikes like a Hyacinth ; excellent ; 3½ feet.
- Nahamah, dark blue, suffused with bronzy crimson ; flowers large, produced in immense spikes ; extra fine ; 3½ feet.
- Nancy, bronzy blue ; 4 feet.
- Nudicaule, light orange red ; compact habit ; 1½ foot.
- Prince of Wales, azure blue, with white centre ; double ; a very showy variety ; 4 feet.
- Pulcherrimum, rich shining blue ; orange and white centre ; produced on spikes 18 inches long ; a splendid variety.
- Ranunculæflorum, rosy lilac, broadly margined with cobalt blue, very double ; produced on long branching spikes ; 3½ feet.
- Sylphe, dark lavender blue ; 3½ feet.
- Thiers, azure blue ; centre white ; very double, distinct and beautiful ; 2 feet.

Dianthus barbatus (Sweet-William)—1 foot.—At one time great attention was given to this lovely plant, and there are fine collections of the auricula-flowered and self-coloured varieties, and few plants are more charming. Although, in hot seasons particularly, they do not last sufficiently long in bloom to make them serviceable in the parterre (unless they be removed when done blooming, and something else put in their place), they are, nevertheless, beautiful mixed-border flowers. The fine single varieties are preferred by some on account of their beautiful marking, but some of the double are very charming. To raise them from seed, this should be carefully selected from the most choice varieties. The end of May or beginning of June is a good time to sow for the following

season's blooming. The seed should be sown outdoors in a light rich bed of soil ; and when the young plants are 2 inches high, if they cannot be planted at once where they are to bloom, they should be pricked out into nursery beds, and transplanted in spring with good balls. Choice varieties must of course be propagated by cuttings, which is very readily done under hand-glasses, or even without such aid in a shady corner. They require a rather heavy rich soil to grow them to perfection.

Herbaceous Pæonias.—Any one who is not acquainted with the numerous magnificent varieties of Herbaceous Pæonias which now exist, cannot form anything like a full idea of the beauty which has been developed in this genus of hardy plants. Vulgarity is the idea which has long been associated with the effects of the Pæonia ; and as regards the old, roughly-formed, and glaring-coloured varieties, emitting odours anything but pleasant, the association may be correct, especially when such old varieties were misplaced in choice selections of plants. But there is a race of Pæonias now in cultivation which for perfection of form and delicacy of colouring almost vie with the queen of flowers, and many of them are sweet-scented. They embrace all the delicacy of colouring which lies between the pure white, the pale pink, the delicate blush, the brilliant rosy purple, the crimson, and various other effective and pleasing colours. Such varieties as *Alice de Julvecourt*, which has guard-petals of the most delicate pink, with the centre petals of a beautiful blush white, slightly flaked with crimson purple. The flowers are as double and compact as the finest Rose, and the blooms of great size. Then there are such as *Léonie*, of a delicate peach, with magnificent double flowers symmetrical in form ; and varieties like *Caroline Allain*, with beautiful blush guard-petals, and the centre sulphur tipped with white. We were more astonished with a boxful of cut blooms of these and such as these, and with a bed of them that we saw in Mr Parker's nursery at Tooting, London, than with any hardy plants we have ever seen ; and, as they become known, we predict for them great popularity. For planting in shrubbery borders, or singly or in groups in odd nooks on grass, nothing can be more effective. They bloom from the middle of June to the end of July, and grow well in any ordinary garden soil moderately enriched with manure, and are easily increased by division.

The following thirty kinds may be relied upon as very effective, and combine a great variety of delicate colouring :—

Alice de Julvecourt.	Léonie.	Plenissima.
Belle Douaisienne.	Madame Furtado.	Rosamond.
Berthe d'Hour.	Madame Vilmorin.	Sidonia.
Carnea triumphans.	Magnificent.	Triomphe de l'Exposition.
Caroline Allain.	Marechal Vaillant.	Triomphe de Paris.
Charles Binder.	Marie Houillon.	Versicolor.
Comte de Neuteuil.	Marquise de Lory.	Victor Lemoine.
Comte de Gomer.	Modeste Guerin.	Virginie.
Etendan de France.	Monsieur de Rousselon.	Washington.
Jeanne d'Arc.	Paul Verdier.	
La Vestale.		

Shrubby Pæonias.—Pæonia Moutan and *P. papaveracea* are the old and well-known varieties of this magnificent plant. A number were brought home direct from China by Mr Fortune, and many more have been originated on the Continent. Unfortunately, our nurserymen have not adopted the Chinese method of propagating them by grafting on the tubers of *P. albiflora*. They generally use stocks of *P. Moutan*, and the stock soon gets the better of the graft. Plants on their own roots, when procurable, are to be preferred. They succeed perfectly in good, hearty, substantial loam, but become stunted in poor, dry, sandy soil. In early places their long succulent shoots, which are put forth rapidly, require a slight protection from frosts in spring. They may be seen, however, in elevated localities, even as high as 400 feet above the level of the sea, passing the winter totally unprotected, and with complete impunity. Where they grow vigorously, they afford a wonderful blaze of colour in the end of May or the beginning of June. This flush of beauty seldom lasts more than ten or fourteen days, and is easily tarnished by rain.

Tree or Moutan Pæonias—Pæonia papaveracea, the single variety, and type of the species.

- Alba lilacina, large, double, white, violet base.
- Arethusa, rosy purple, large and full.
- Athlete, very large, double, delicate lilac.
- Bijou de Chusan, large, nearly double, light purple.
- Carolina, double, salmon, very clear.
- Charles Rogur, double, good shape, white.
- Comte de Flandres, very large and double, bright rose.
- Comte de Rambuteau, white, with rose centre.
- Confucius, double, dark rose, striking.
- Cornelia, very large, double, violet.
- D. Bowring, deep rose.
- De Bungay, delicate pink.
- Elizabeth, poppy red, very large and double.
- Fragrans maxima-plena, double, soft rose; very fragrant.
- Hippolyte, double, beautiful white rose.
- Imperatrice Josephiné, very large and double, lilac rose; fine.
- Jewel of Clinsan, pure white.

Jules Pirlot, rosy lilac.
 Lambertine, double, white, spotted violet.
 La Ville de St Denis, very large, double, clear rose.
 Leopolda, double, good shape ; fragrant.
 Louise Moucheton, very large and double, clear rose ; fragrant.
 Madame Stuart Low, large, double, brilliant salmon red.
 Madame Stuart Low, cerise.
 Morris, rose, spotted with violet.
 Odorata Maria, double, good form, soft rose.
 Prince Troubetzkoy, very large, double, dark lilac.
 Professor de Morren, white.
 Ranieri, very large, double, bright amaranth.
 Rienzi, very large and double, beautiful bright rose.
 Rosa Eliarsii, double, bright carnation.
 Rubra odorata plenissima, very large, double, lilac rose.
 Souvenir de Madame Knon, very large, double, white tinted carmine.
 Stewart Low, cerise.
 Triomphe de Malines, large, clear violet, base darker.
 Triomphe de Vandermaelen, very double, beautiful rosy violet.

Phloxes—2 to 3 feet.—For mixed flower-borders and shrubberies, this genus of hardy perennial plants is very ornamental and effective. They are easily increased by division in the spring, and also by cuttings in August. They strike freely under a hand-glass in sandy soil, and every joint will root. In spring, transplant into deep, rather heavy, rich soil, if possible, as the flowers and panicles are much finer than when grown on light dry soils ; moreover, they last much longer in bloom. They should be renewed by lifting and dividing the roots, or by cuttings every second or third year ; and when the stools are large, the weaker stems should be thinned out to give the others room. Those marked E are early varieties.

Admiration, red, crimson centre.
 Alexander Finlay, rose, crimson eye.
 E Angus Macleod, rosy purple.
 E Archibald M'Keith, rosy purple.
 E Argus, French white.
 Bryan Wynn, crimson.
 E Charles Downie, rosy crimson.
 E Clouded Gem, rose and white.
 Coccinea, crimson.
 E Countess of Breadalbane, carmine.
 E Countess of Galloway, white.
 Countess of Rosslyn, white.
 Dr Leroy, rosy crimson.
 E Duchess of Athole, pure white.
 E Duchess of Sutherland, white.
 E Eclipse, lilac, crimson eye.
 Edouard Andy, carmine.
 E Empress, white, rose eye.
 Etoile de Neuilly, white, tinged with violet.
 James Allan, salmon scarlet.
 E James Ross, puce, crimson eye.

J. M. Purves, peach. E John Baillie, rosy purple. John Buntion, deep crimson. E John Duke, white, rose eye. E Lady Abercromby, white, crimson eye. E Lady Napier, white. Lothair, light scarlet. Madame Austin, violet red. Madame Moisset, violet. E Magnum Bonum, rosy crimson. E Miss Robertson, pure white. Miss R. Grieve, white, purple eye. Mons. Delamare, dazzling red. Mons. Henrique, crimson. Mons. Hugh Low, purple. Mons. Linden, salmon. Mons. Rafarin, amaranth red. E Mrs C. Brodie, white, shaded rose. E Mrs Dalrymple, white. E Mrs Hunter, white, crimson eye. E Mrs James Watt, white, lilac eye.

E Mrs J. Hope, white, shaded lilac.	E Rosy Circle, rosy lilac.
E Mrs M'Lellan, white.	E Rosy Gem, dark rose.
Mrs Standing, pale rose.	Sheriff Ivory, rose, crimson eye.
Mrs W. Millar, pale rose carmine.	E The Deacon, rosy purple.
Premices du Bonheur, white, with cerise centre.	The M. Newman, rosy crimson.
E Princess Alexandra, white, crimson eye.	E The Shah, rosy purple.
Resplendent, rosy red.	Venus, white.
Robert Knox, salmon.	Virginale, pure white.
Roi de Roses, rosy salmon.	Virgo Marie, white, purple eye.
	E William Grey, purple and rose.

Pyrethrums— $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.—The hardiness of these, and the great improvement in size and colour which has been effected in them, make them most useful plants, especially to those who have but very limited accommodation for preserving tender plants. They are herbaceous plants, and are easily propagated by division in spring. In cold wet soils it is a good plan to pot up a few of them in autumn, and when they have grown a few inches in spring, to propagate by cuttings in gentle heat. A rich and rather heavy soil is most suitable for them. In poor, very dry soils, they are apt to flower very freely early in summer, and throw up fresh growth in the autumn, and in consequence get killed in winter. For autumn display, the best way is to cut them back in June: they then throw up fresh growths, and flower in autumn.

List of Pyrethrums.

- Argentine, white, very large.
- Boule de Neige, white, double, fine.
- Candidum plenum, white, large, double, fine.
- Carminatum plenum, carmine, large and double, fine.
- Carneum plenum, blush, large and double, fine.
- Delicatum, white.
- Dr Livingstone, flesh.
- Elegantissimum, rose, light centre, distinct, double, fine.
- Emily Lemoine, crimson.
- Floribundum plenum, rosy pink, double, fine.
- Fulgens plenissimum, dark-red, double, fine.
- Galathée, rose, large, fine.
- Hermann Stenger, rose, bronze centre, double, fine.
- Imbricatum plenum, light rose, large, double, fine.
- Imperatrice Charlotte, blush, yellowish centre, double.
- Iturbide, bright carmine, fine.
- Kleinholz, crimson, yellow centre, single, fine.
- La Belle Blonde, blush, with yellow centre.
- Lady Blanche, blush, very large, double, fine.
- Madame Billiard, blush white, double.
- Madame Munier, rosy blush, double.
- Ne plus ultra, white.
- Nemesis, dark red, double, extra fine.
- Nivum plenum, white, double, fine.
- Paul Journu, rose, light centre, double.

Rev. J. Dix, deep blush, double, ranunculus centre.
Roseum album, pink and white centre, large, double.
Roseum plenum, light rose, large double, fine.
Rubrum plenum, red, double, fine.
Solfaterre, white and yellow.
Sulphureum, yellow.
Virginale, white, yellow centre.

Tritoma uvaria glaucescens, 3 to 4 feet—*T. grandis*, 4 to 6 feet, shaded Orange tipped with delicate Green.—This is one of the most gorgeous genus of hardy autumnal flowering plants. Few flowers can excel the stately large spikes of shaded orange tipped with delicate green. They are easily increased by division either in spring or autumn. When divided in autumn, they should be potted and wintered where severe frost does not reach them ; and planted out in April, they make finer plants the first season than when divided in spring and not potted. But they do very well lifted and divided in April, after severe frosts are not likely to occur. Some have affirmed that *T. uvaria* can be had true from seed ; but I have raised hundreds from seed, and found them as variable nearly as a Pansy—not one coming exactly like the parent. They are gorgeous for back lines and mixed borders, and the two named give a constant succession of bloom from August till Christmas. *T. grandis* commences to bloom when *T. uvaria* ceases. There are several varieties of *T. uvaria*, but *T. uvaria glaucescens* is the best.

They delight in rich, deep, well-manured soil. Leaf-mould or rotten dung should be liberally applied. To see them in greatest perfection, they must be allowed to grow into large stools, when their effect is grand.

CHAPTER X.

THE HARDY FLOWER-GARDEN—Continued.

HARDY ANNUALS—BIENNIALS—ORNAMENTAL GRASSES AND EVERLASTING FLOWERS.

ANNUALS occupy a very subordinate position in gardens now, compared with former times. It cannot be denied that, compared with those plants which have displaced them, they are generally only second-rate, for the purpose of keeping up a long-continued display. Their deficiency in this respect is more fully realised on poor, hot, sandy soils, and on very heavy soils when they become hard and cracked during droughts. While this is a generally acknowledged fact, many annuals are in themselves strikingly beautiful, and in airy gracefulness far surpass many of our chief ornaments of the parterre, although they lack that solidity of habit and colouring which makes the Pelargonium and its associates so surpassingly effective for artistic decoration.

To some extent, at least, annuals owe the second-rate position into which they have fallen to bad management and neglect, as well as to the greater effectiveness of their popular peers. With the same care and good culture bestowed on many of our annuals which have been devoted to their rivals, it is possible they would have held a more prominent position now. Such as *Nemophila insignis*, when sown on rich deep soil and thinned out to 8 or 9 inches, makes the finest blue bed of any plant we know, and blooms till November, when such things as *Lobelias* are dead and gone. Annuals have one great recommendation to those who cannot afford either to grow or purchase other bedding-plants, and that is, that as many seeds can be bought for a few shillings as will, in conjunction with a

selection of hardy perennial plants, make the humblest garden gay for a few months of the year. But to attain this, they require to be much more carefully cultivated than is general at present. Far too often, all the cultivation that is bestowed upon them is to tickle the surface of a partially-shaded bed or border, and sow them in "rings," where, if they escape being devoured by slugs and snails, as soon as they come up they are left unthinned and uncared for; and, as a consequence, the result is a weak, sickly, and short-lived crop of bloom. It is with the conviction that those who are so circumstanced as to be mostly dependent on annuals for a gay bed or border, can, by proper management, enjoy that source of pleasure, that the following cultural directions and list of varieties are given, which, if carefully attended to, will produce a display of annuals such as is seldom met with in the generality of gardens nowadays.

Soil.—The soil most suitable for the great majority of annuals is that which is known as a sandy loam, deeply worked, and moderately enriched with manure. Trenching or deep digging is of the first importance; and where annuals are sown amongst herbaceous plants, as is very general, it is hopeless to expect them to do well if the soil is merely pointed over for a series of years. It will not only be best for the annuals, but for the permanent plants, to lift them at intervals of a few years, and trench and manure the soil. The best time to do this is in early spring, when the hardy plants are commencing to grow. When a shallow sandy soil has to be dealt with, if possible some heavy soil should be added to and mixed with it, and more manure applied than is necessary for better soils. A cold heavy soil should have the contrary treatment; old lime-rubbish, road-grit, or any light sharp soil added and mixed with it, instead of much manure, will help to improve it. It should be turned up with a rough surface to the winter's frost; and in early spring hot-lime sprinkled over its surface, and pointed in, will prepare a finer and more healthy staple for small seeds, while it will also help to counteract the growth caused by adding much animal manure. In this case the herbaceous plants must be heeled in somewhere for a time.

Time of Sowing.—The time when the display of bloom is wanted must to some extent determine the time to sow. If required for autumn display, the end of May or beginning of June is sufficiently early. Indeed, early sowing under any circumstances is not to be recommended. If sown early, there

are more chances against their coming up well, and slugs are much more likely to destroy them; for these pests are particularly troublesome to annuals in a young state. As a general rule, the end of April or beginning of May is early enough to sow. Those sown in May bloom at a time when, after the turn of the day, they continue much longer in good condition than when they come earlier into flower. When an early summer bloom of annuals is an object, and a little artificial heat in a frame or pit is attainable, I would recommend that, instead of sowing in the open border, they be sown in small pots, and placed in a gentle heat— 60° —till they are an inch high. Then, after being well hardened off, they should be planted out without breaking the balls, say about the end of April, or even the middle of the month.

Sowing.—In sowing a bed of annuals, the first thing to do is to level and make fine and even the surface of the soil. And suppose that a bed is to be sown with White Candytuft, to have a foot or more of a margin of *Nemophila insignis*, mark off the margin all round the bed, and sow in shallow drills the Candytuft in the centre, and then the margin of *Nemophila*, also in drills, following the outline of the bed as a guide in drawing them. The drill system is preferable, as a Dutch hoe can be made use of immediately the young plants show themselves above ground, and they can be much more easily and regularly thinned. Frequent hoeing between the lines has a tendency to keep slugs in check, and, in a cultural point of view, is of considerable importance. Small seeds should just be covered with soil, and no more. Larger ones will do with a covering of an inch of soil.

Thinning, &c.—Thinning annuals is an important point of their culture very little attended to, and the neglect of it does more to injure them than any other matter connected with them. They are sown thickly, and oftentimes allowed to run up into flower without ever being thinned at all; and the result is just the same as would occur in the case of a thickly-sown bed of cabbage allowed to stand, without thinning or transplanting, to come to perfection in the seed-bed. As soon as they can be easily handled, thinning should be performed. Of course the more upright-growing varieties, such as Larkspurs, for instance, will not require so much thinning as those of a more spreading or branching habit; but they should all be sufficiently thinned to allow each plant to develop itself properly. This should not be done all at once, but at two

thinnings, at least where slugs are troublesome. The best way to deal with such enemies is to look over the beds, at night and morning especially, and catch and kill as many as can be found. Lettuce or cabbage leaves laid down among the rows will decoy them; and if looked over every day in this way, they will be mastered. A first-rate *preventive* is a ring of sharp sand round the bed of annuals, or, indeed, young plants of any kind. No slug or snail will cross this.

It is a good plan to sow a small patch of each sort in a sheltered but not shaded place, or in pots, about ten or fourteen days after the sowing has been made in beds and borders, so as to have them in reserve to transplant in case of failure. When it is an object with amateurs to have an early bloom, and when, at the same time, they have no frame or pit to sow in, some of the hardier sorts may be sown at the end of March in small patches, and covered at night with flower-pots for some time after the seeds are up. In this way some early patches of bloom can be had in mixed beds. Besides this, as is fully described for spring gardening, many annuals such as *Collinsia*, *Erysimum*, *Eschscholtzia*, *Candytuft*, *Lupins*, *Nemophila*, *Saponaria*, *Silene*, can be sown thinly in autumn in a rather poor dry soil in a sheltered border; and, allowed to stand the winter in a small state, they transplant well in spring with little balls. During severe weather they can be slightly protected with evergreen boughs or mats. These are methods by which, from the poorest resources, an early show of annuals can be had if desired.

There is another point connected with the culture of annuals which, if assiduously attended to, tends as much as any other to the prolongation of their season of bloom; and it is the simple one of removing all decaying blossoms, and so preventing seed-pods from being formed. When this is constantly seen to, the energies of the plants are directed towards the production of wood and flowers, and these are produced much finer, as well as more abundantly, than if the plants are allowed to produce seeds in the ordinary way. Another matter of considerable importance is to water in dry weather—not small drops frequently, but good soakings sufficiently often to prevent the ground from cracking or becoming very dry. This, in conjunction with the stirring of the surface of the soil, is of first-rate importance.¹

Staking.—Such varieties as require supporting, to prevent

¹ See Chapter on Watering.

their falling over from the influence of rains and high winds, should be attended to before they become full-grown. There cannot be anything more unsightly in an otherwise neat garden than the too common method of tying annuals, or indeed any plant, bundle-like to a single stake. Those in beds should have some twiggy branches, such as birch or beech twigs, put in among them. Spruce branches that have lost their leaves supply excellent spray for this purpose: sticking these neatly round the plants before they are fully grown, so that ultimately the supports are hid, is an excellent plan. And the same method answers equally well for those sown in patches, only in their case the twigs should be put quite close to the plants, so that, when they grow a little, the leaves and branches hide the supports.

The following is a select list of hardy annuals. Those marked * are best where a small collection only can be grown; indeed, the two dozen or so marked afford material enough for a large and effective display. Those marked a are most suitable for sowing in autumn to stand the winter.

Select List of Hardy Annuals.

- Adonis flos, scarlet, 1 foot.
- * a Agrostemma celi-rosa fimbriata, rose, with white centre, $\frac{2}{3}$ foot.
- * a Alyssum maritimum, white (sweet-scented), $\frac{3}{4}$ foot.
- a Bartonia aurea, bright yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
- Cacalia aurea, deep orange, 1 foot.
- * Cacalia coccinea, scarlet, 1 foot.
- a Calandrinia speciosa, rose, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
- Calliopsis bicolor atrosanguinea, blood red, 2 feet.
- a Calliopsis coronata, orange, 1 foot.
- * a Calliopsis Drummondii, yellow and red, 2 feet.
- Callirhoe pedata nana, crimson, 1 foot.
- a Campanula Loreii, dark blue, $\frac{2}{3}$ foot.
- * a Candytuft, white, 1 foot.
- * a Candytuft, lilac, 1 foot.
- * a Candytuft, crimson, 1 foot.
- Candytuft Hybrid Spiral, pure white, and very fine.
- Centranthus macrosiphon, scarlet, 1 foot.
- Chrysanthemum segetum, golden yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
- * a Chrysanthemum tricolor Burridgeanum, and its varieties, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
- a Clarkia alba fimbriata, white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
- Clarkia elegans pleno, rose and white, variegated, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
- Clarkia integrifolia, crimson, 1 foot.
- Clarkia integrifolia pleno.
- * a Clarkia pulcherrima, bright carmine, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
- * a Collinsia alba, white, 1 foot.
- a Collinsia grandiflora, blue and purple, 1 foot.
- * a Collinsia tricolor, purple and white, 1 foot.
- * a Collinsia verna, blue and white, 1 foot.
- Collomia coccinea, scarlet, 1 foot.
- * Convolvulus minor, blue, 1 foot.

- * *Dianthus hybridus*, crimson, 1 foot.
- * *a Erysimum Peroffskianum*, orange, 1½ foot.
- * *a Eschscholtzia californica*, yellow, 1 foot.
Eschscholtzia carminea grandiflora, 1 foot.
- * *Eschscholtzia Mandarin*, orange and scarlet, 1 foot.
- * *Eucharidium grandiflorum*, crimson, 1 foot.
Gilia capitata, blue, 1½ foot.
- a Gilia rosea splendens*, rose, 1½ foot.
- * *a Gilia tricolor*, lilac, white, and purple, 1 foot.
Godetia Lindleyana, lilac and red, 1½ foot.
Godetia rosea alba, rose and white, 1 foot.
Godetia rubicunda, crimson, 1½ foot.
- Hibiscus africanus major*, yellow and purple, 1½ foot.
- Isotoma axillaris*, blue, 8 inches.
Isotoma petrea, cream colour, 1 foot.
- a Kaulfussia amelloides*, bright blue, ½ foot.
- * *Larkspurs* of sorts, 1 foot.
Leptosiphon aureus, golden, ½ foot.
- a Leptosiphon aureus*, yellow, ½ foot.
- a Leptosiphon densiflorus albus*, white, 1 foot.
- a Limnanthes Douglasii*, yellow and white, ½ foot.
Linum grandiflorum rubrum, scarlet, 1½ foot.
- Lupinus albus*, white, ½ foot.
Lupinus albo-coccineus, scarlet and white, 1½ foot.
- Lupinus Cruickshankii*.
- Lupinus Dunnettii superbus*, purple and white, 1½ foot.
- * *a Lupinus nanus*, shaded blue, ½ foot.
- * *Malope trifida grandiflora*, crimson, 1½ foot.
Necterima selaginoides, white, 8 inches.
- Nemophila alba*.
- * *a Nemophila insignis*, blue, ½ foot.
Nemophila maculata, white, blotched with purple, ½ foot.
- a Nolana atriplicifolia*, blue and white, ½ foot.
- * *Genothena Drummondii nana*, bright yellow, ½ foot.
Poppies, in variety, 1 to 3 feet.
- Reseda odorata* (*Mignonette*), ½ foot, and its varieties.
- * *Sanvitalia procumbens flore-pleno*, yellow, ½ foot.
- * *a Saponaria calabrica*, bright pink, ½ foot.
- * *a Saponaria calabrica alba*, white, ½ foot.
- Schizanthus Priestii*, white and yellow, 1½ foot.
- * *a Silene pendula*, rose and white, ½ foot.
Silene pendula flore-pleno, pink, 9 inches.
- Statice Suworowii*, bright rose, 1½ foot.
- Sunflower, in variety, 3 to 6 feet.
- * Sweet Peas, 5 feet.
Tropaeolum canariense, yellow, 8 feet.
- Tropaeolum Empress of India*, crimson, 1 foot.
- Tropaeolum Golden King*, yellow, 1 foot.
- Tropaeolum Ruby King*, ruby rose, 1 foot.
- a Venus's Looking-glass*, blue, lilac, and white, ½ foot.
- * *a Virginian Stock*, red and white, ½ foot.

Half-Hardy Annuals.—Some of the most effective of this class of annuals have been already recommended and treated of; but for the sake of those of my readers who may be able only to command the use of a frame or a few hand-glasses, and a slight hotbed in spring, it has been thought advisable to treat briefly of this class under a distinct heading. In very favoured

places as to soil and climate, nearly all the varieties that are enumerated may be sown in light rich soil in a south border about the middle of May. But generally the assistance of glass and a slight bottom-heat is necessary. A very slight hotbed of leaves or stable-manure, or, what is better, equal proportions of both, should be put up in March. The inside of the frame should have light moderately rich soil put over it to the depth of eight inches. In this the seeds should be sown, in rows three or four inches apart, kept regularly and moderately moist; and when two inches high, they should be hardened off by degrees, and planted out from the middle to the end of May, according to locality. In transplanting them, care should be taken to do as little injury to the roots as possible; and attention in the way of watering for a time after being put out, should the weather be dry, is of great importance. If shaded by a few evergreen boughs—especially those sorts which make tap-roots and few fibres—they will of course require less attention with water, and will get hold sooner. If time and space can be afforded to prick them out when a couple of inches high, they would make much more robust and better-rooted plants for final planting; but unless frames can be afforded for this, it is best left alone.

Select List of Half-hardy Annuals.

- Alonsoa Warscewiczii, bright scarlet, 1 foot.
- Amaranthus caudatus, crimson, 2 to 3 feet.
- Amaranthus speciosus, crimson, 2 feet.
- Asters, various, from 6 inches to 2 feet.
- Brachycome iberidifolia, various colours, 1½ foot.
- Calceolaria scabiosæfolia, yellow, 1 foot.
- Clintonia pulchella, purple and yellow, 6 inches.
- Clintonia pulchella alba, white, 6 inches.
- Godetia Duchess of Albany, white, 1 foot.
- Godetia Lady Albemarle, crimson, 1 foot.
- Marigold, African, orange, 2 feet.
- Marigold, African, lemon.
- Marigold, French, mixture, 1½ foot.
- Marigold, French, dwarf miniature, orange, ½ foot.
- Mesembryanthemum tricolor, red, ½ foot.
- Nemesia compacta insignis, blue, 9 inches.
- Oenothera Drummondii nana, yellow, 1 foot.
- Oenothera grandiflora, yellow, 2 feet.
- Oenothera Lamarckiana, yellow, 8 feet.
- Portulaca, various, 6 inches.
- Rhodanthe Manglesii, bright rose, ¾ foot.
- Salpiglossis, various, 1 foot.
- Schizanthus Grahamii, rose and yellow, 2 feet.
- Sedum caeruleum, blue.
- Senecio Jacobea, various, 1½ foot.
- Sphenogyne speciosa, yellow, 1 foot.

- Stocks, Ten-week, various, 1 foot.
 Stocks, Intermediate, various, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Venidium calendulaceum, orange, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Zinnia elegans, various, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Zinnia elegans flore-pleno, various, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Zinnia elegans tagetiflora flore-pleno, various, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Zinnia mexicana, yellow and orange, 1 foot.

Biennials.—Biennials are a class of plants which do not flower the same year they are sown. The year after they are sown they are in perfection ; and those of them which live over the second year are of little or no use afterwards. Various dates have been recommended for sowing these ; but generally they are not sown sufficiently early in order to make fine plants by the time they should be finally planted out. From June till August is the usual time for sowing ; but it is much better to sow about the middle of May—certainly not later than the third week of that month.

Sowing.—A border having an east aspect is preferable for sowing them. The ground should be free, and moderately rich. The drill system of sowing is less likely to produce drawn weakly plants than the broadcast. Should the weather be dry when they are sown, a good soaking of water through a fine rose should be given, and then some boughs or old mats, or anything that will shade, should be thrown over them till the seeds are breaking through the soil. Before the seedlings suffer from overcrowding, a rich well-exposed border should be manured and well pulverised, into which they are to be pricked off. This is the point in their culture which is perhaps of most importance to attend to, and one which it is the object of early sowing to allow plenty of opportunity for accomplishing. Plants that are allowed to remain in the seedling beds or lines till finally transplanted are never so fine as pricked-out ones. To get a fine strong plant and satisfactory bloom, they should be stocky and strong, and lifted with good balls,—conditions which cannot be commanded by later sowing and only once transplanting. When pricked out, each plant should stand clear of its neighbour 6 inches ; and in this way they grow into low bushy plants that can be moved with balls of soil, and transplanted in autumn. They stand the winter much better from being nursed thus. All attempts at throwing up flower-stems must be checked by pinching them off as they appear.

Soil and Transplanting.—To grow the majority of biennials well, they require a good holding loamy soil, and it should be prepared as already directed for annuals. The end of Septem-

ber, or from that time till the middle of October, is the best time to plant out where they are to flower. We prefer autumn to spring planting, because autumn weather is generally much milder than that of early spring, and late spring moving is not to be recommended. If carefully lifted with balls, and planted in autumn, they get a good hold before the dead of winter; but when autumn planting cannot be practised, they should be planted in spring not later than the end of March. But the chief points of culture lie in early sowing, transplanting into nursery beds, and planting in autumn with balls.

Select List of Biennials.

<i>Anchusa italicica</i> , red and purple, 2 feet.	Hollyhocks.
<i>Campanula calycantha</i> , various, 2 feet.	<i>Honesty</i> , purple, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet.
<i>Canterbury Bells</i> , various, 2 feet.	<i>Iberis linifolia</i> , white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
<i>Catananche bicolor</i> , $\frac{3}{4}$ foot.	<i>Enothera biennis</i> , yellow, 3 feet.
<i>Catananche cærulea</i> , $\frac{3}{4}$ foot.	<i>Enothera biennis alba</i> , white, 2 feet.
<i>Dianthus chinensis</i> , various, 1 foot.	<i>Enothera fruticosa</i> , yellow, 3 feet.
<i>Dianthus chinensis Hedewigii</i> , various, 1 foot.	<i>Enothera Lamarckiana</i> , yellow, 3 feet.
<i>Erysimum arkansanum</i> , yellow, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Rockets, purple and white, 1 foot.
French Honeysuckle, scarlet and white, 2 feet.	Stocks, Brompton, Cape, Emperor, various, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
	Sweet Scabious, various, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
	Sweet-William, various, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
	Valerian, red and white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
	Wallflower, various, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.

In preparing these lists, plants that have been previously treated of are not included, and those most suited for the widest range of localities are enumerated.

Ornamental Grasses and Everlastings.—No garden should be without a collection of Ornamental Grasses. Either apart by themselves, or with gayer-coloured flowers in mixed beds and borders, it is scarcely possible to over-estimate their grace and elegance, and consequently their decorative qualities. And when they have fully developed their chaste and pleasing sprayey-looking tufts and panicles, a portion of them can be gathered, dried, and dyed into all colours, when, along with "everlastings," they are charming material for filling vases, and making dinner-table bouquets at the dead of the year, especially in the case of those who have no glass-houses from which to get a supply of flowers; and even the most gigantic garden cannot neglect them in this way without a loss of beauty which is by no means inconsiderable. They present a great variety of form and outline: some are dwarf and neat; some are singularly graceful; others, again, are tall and stately, ranging

from the lovely dwarf Achnodonton, scarcely 6 inches high, to the stately Pampas Grass. They are so easily cultivated, and cheaply purchased in small seed-packets, that they are within the reach of the humblest gardener. In light warm soils, the same treatment recommended for hardy annuals applies to ornamental grasses in the matters of sowing, thinning, &c. But on cold stiff soils it is advisable to treat the very small-seeded varieties especially, in the way recommended for half-hardy annuals; at least to sow them in a warm situation under hand-glasses, and then transplant them in the usual way.

Select List of Ornamental Grasses most suitable for Bouquets.

Achnodonton Bellardii, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Eragrostis amabilis, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Agrostis alba gigantea, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Eragrostis elegans, 1 foot.
Agrostis argentea, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Eragrostis elongata, 1 foot.
Agrostis elegans, 1 foot.	Festuca pectinella, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Agrostis nebulosa, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Hordeum jubatum, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Agrostis verticillata, 1 foot.	Hordeum myurooides, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Anthoxanthum ovatum, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Lagurus ovatus, 1 foot.
Briza compacta, 1 foot.	Lasiagrostis argentea, $\frac{3}{4}$ foot.
Briza gracilis, 1 foot.	Panicum colonum, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Briza major, 1 foot.	Panicum Crus-Galli, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Bromus macrostachys, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Panicum proliferum, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Ceratochloa pendula, 1 foot.	Pennisetum cenchroides, 1 foot.
Chascolytrum erectum, 2 feet.	Pennisetum distylum, 1 foot.
Chloris barbata, 1 foot.	Pennisetum setosum, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Chloris elegans, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Piptatherum Thomasii, 1 foot.
Chloris radiata, 1 foot.	Setaria glauca, 2 feet.
Ciox chinensis, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Stipa aristella, $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot.
Diplachne fascicularis, 2 feet.	Stipa elegantissima, 2 feet.
Eleusine Fortunei, $\frac{1}{2}$ foot.	Stipa intricata, 2 feet.
Eleusine indica, 1 foot.	Tricholæna rosea, 1 foot.

The great majority of the above flower the first year, and a good many of them continue for two or more years. Of taller sorts, for shrubbery borders, there are the Andropogons, Arundos, Chloropis, Erianthus, Gyneriums, Panicums, &c., which range from 3 to 8 feet, and most of which require a few years to give them strength to throw up their noble flowers. Scarcely anything can be more ornamental than the graceful flower-spikes of such as the Gyneriums and Arundos for winter decoration in a dry state, and they can be dyed in various colours to give variety.

For associating with these grasses in winter bouquets for vases and dinner-table decoration, very suitable and appropriate, and of equally easy culture, are the Everlasting Annuals, collections of which are now obtainable for a few shillings. Some of them are quite hardy, others are classed among the half-hardy section. The latter can be easily raised, just in the

same way as has been directed for half-hardy annuals ; while, instead of sowing those marked hardy in the open borders, I would recommend them to be sown under hand-glasses, as in the case of grasses. They are much more likely to vegetate freely, and are more easily guarded from slugs. Most of the Everlastings are strong-growing plants, and the error of planting them in thick tufts should be avoided. The seeds should be sown rather thinly ; and in transplanting them, they should be pricked out—the individual plants in patches, each plant a few inches separate from another. In transplanting them, it facilitates their progress very much to mix in a little rich light mould where they are to be planted. They should be kept well watered for a time, if the weather be dry. The following is a list of those most desirable. H indicates hardy, H H half-hardy :—

List of Everlastings.

- H H *Acroclinium album*, white, 1 foot.
- H H *Acroclinium roseum*, rose, 1 foot.
Acroclinium roseum flore-pleno.
- H H *Ammobium alatum*, white, 2 feet.
- H *Helichrysum apiculatum*, yellow, 1½ foot.
- H *Helichrysum brachyrhynchum*, yellow, 1½ foot.
- H *Helichrysum bracteatum*, yellow, 2 feet.
- H *Helichrysum bracteatum album*, white, 2 feet.
- H *Helichrysum capitatum*, yellow, 1½ foot.
- H *Helichrysum elegans*, yellow, 1 foot.
- H *Helichrysum monstrosum*, various, 2 feet.
- H *Helichrysum monstrosum nanum album*, fl. pl., white, 2 feet.
- H *Helichrysum monstrosum nanum atrococcineum*, fl. pl., scarlet, 2 feet.
- H *Helichrysum monstrosum nanum luteum*, fl. pl., yellow, 2 feet.
- H *Helichrysum monstrosum nanum roseum*, fl. pl., rose, 2 feet.
- H H *Helipterum corymbiflorum*, white, ¾ foot.
- H H *Helipterum Sandfordii*, yellow, ¾ foot.
- H H *Morna elegans*, lilac, 1 foot.
- H H *Rhodanthe alba*, white, 1½ foot.
- H H *Rhodanthe atrosanguinea*, crimson, 1½ foot.
- H H *Rhodanthe Manglesii*, rose and white, 1 foot.
- H H *Waitzia aurea*, yellow, 1½ foot.
- H H *Waitzia corymbosa*, white and red, 1 foot.
- H *Xeranthemum album*, white, 2 feet.
- H *Xeranthemum annum*, purple, 2 feet.
- H *Xeranthemum caryophylloides*, fl. pl., various, 2 feet.
- H *Xeranthemum luteum*, yellow, 2 feet.
- H *Xeranthemum superbissimum purpureum*, purple, 2 feet.
- H *Xeranthemum superbissimum album*, white, 2 feet.

CHAPTER XI.

THE HARDY FLOWER-GARDEN—Continued.

CARNATIONS, PICOTEEES, AND PINKS.

THE great beauty and delicious fragrance of these flowers have long made them favourites, and no garden, however humble, in which they can be cultivated, should be without them ; while none, however extensive, can leave them uncared for without the loss of a pleasure not easily made up by any other tribe of plants. The too exclusive rage for mere gaudy and persistent flowering plants has caused them to be neglected in gardens which can well afford to have them in greater numbers with decided advantage. Although some of the most choice and beautiful varieties are somewhat weakly in constitution, there are plenty amongst them of robust habit and easy culture, that can be grown in any common garden soil that is not very sandy and poor on the one hand, nor very wet and clayey on the other. Where such unfavourable soils naturally exist, it becomes necessary to prepare artificial beds for them, and few flowers so well repay careful preparation of soil and culture.

The best soil for Carnations and Picotees is a rather heavy loam resting on a well-drained subsoil. Few plants are more impatient of stagnant water ; and where the ground is not naturally well drained, drainage must be artificially provided. Although ordinary garden soil well manured with rotten manure from the farmyard, deeply trenched and frequently forked over during frosty and drying winds in early spring, grows Carnations very well, they are always benefited by a proportion of fresh maiden loam being mixed in with the natural soil ; and where circumstances admit of this, it should never be neglected. The loam should be mixed in with the manure and natural soil by being frequently turned over nearly the

full depth of the borders, leaving the surface rough or in ridges, so as to be mellowed by exposure.

The end of March or beginning of April is a good time to plant them out where they are to bloom. A foot apart each way in the beds is close enough to plant. Should any yellow or sickly-looking leaves exist about the necks of the young plants, remove them carefully, and plant sufficiently deep and firm to keep them steady. If the spring months are dry, frequent watering will be greatly to their advantage; and should it be wet, slugs must be looked after every morning, or they will soon make their ravages felt. As soon as they begin to "spindle" for bloom, stakes should be put to them, and the flower-stems loosely tied as they grow. When the buds are formed, and larger blooms are desired, they should be thinned to two or three on a stem. Should the summer be dry, give frequent waterings with weak manure-water; and when the beauty and fragrance of the opening buds begin to well repay the care of culture, it will prolong the blooming season, and improve their colours, if an awning of thin canvas is thrown over them during the hottest hours of the day.

Carnations and Picotees can be propagated by cuttings or pipings, the same as Pinks; but the surest and best way is to pursue the ordinary way of layering, which can be successfully performed by any one. First prepare some soil, consisting of two-thirds loam, one-third well-decayed and finely-sifted manure or leaf-mould, and add to the whole a sixth of sand; then remove a little of the surface soil from around each stool, cut away weakly shoots, and strip the leaves from a portion of the stem next the ground. With a sharp, thin-bladed knife, split up the cleared portion of the stem, beginning a little below one of the joints; and turning the top of the layer upwards, so as to throw the heel or tongue downwards, fix it firmly in the fresh soil by a wooden peg, putting it into the ground below the split portion of the stem. When all the layers of each stool are layered, place as much of the prepared soil firmly round the stool and about the stems as will keep all steady and firmly in their places; give a good watering through a rose, and keep them watered at least three times a-week should the season be dry. At the time of layering remove all stems from which the flowers have faded or been gathered. Should birds prove troublesome, as they frequently do in dry weather, by scraping about them and scattering the fresh moist soil, it is a good plan to place some flints or small stones round about

the plants : this keeps the birds from removing the soil, and prevents evaporation. August is the best time to layer, in order to get well-rooted plants before winter, although it is frequently successfully performed in September.

Carnations and Picotees.—By October the layers will be well rooted ; and although they are perfectly hardy, they are very subject to the attacks of slugs, and to become yellow and sickly in wet and changeable winters. It is therefore desirable to remove the young plants not later than the second week of October, and to plant them in moderately rich and rather light loamy soil in cold pits or pans, placing them sufficiently wide apart that every plant stands clear of another, and lifting each plant with a small fork, so as not to break the roots, and to preserve a ball of earth to them. In this their winter quarters expose them to all the air and as little rain or moisture as possible, by drawing the lights entirely off them when fine, and tilting them up back and front when wet. During severe frosts the lights may be shut closely down, which is all the protection they need. They require to be examined occasionally, and all decayed or yellow-spotted leaves removed, and the soil among them occasionally stirred, to keep all fresh and healthy about them.

Many take the trouble of potting each plant separately in 4 or 5 inch pots, and plunging them in ashes or dry light soil, which is a very good way of wintering them, for they transplant in spring without any check ; although everything approaching to a severely matted ball is undesirable. They winter very well in frames as described without being potted, and give much less trouble, and with care transplant perfectly well, especially if a little chopped turfy loam be mixed in the top six inches of the soil when framed in October.

Such is ordinary garden culture. When fine show flowers are required, it is necessary to shade and carefully tie the pods to keep them from bursting ; but it is their culture in a popular way that is our object to inculcate.

When planted among other hardy plants in mixed borders, they are much benefited by mixing in for each patch a few spadefuls of fresh loamy soil and manure. They are very subject to green-fly ; and to keep it in check, a syringing of weak tobacco-water vigorously applied proves effectual.

*Select List of Carnations.**Scarlet Bizarres.*

Admiral Curzon.
Brilliant.
Brutus.
Dreadnought.
Duke of Wellington.
Duke of York.
George.
Lord Derby.
Lord Lewisham.
Oliver Goldsmith.
Rembrandt.

Crimson Bizarres.

Albion's Pride.
Black Diamond.
Dr Masters.
Eccentric Jack.
Jenny Lind.
Monarch.
Mrs MacLaren.
Premier.
Queen Victoria.
Rifleman.
Saturn.

Purple and Pink Bizarres.

Falconbridge.
James Taylor.
Joe Bagatock.
Princess Beatrice.
Purity.
Sarah Payne.
Tom Foster.
William Skirving.

Purple Flakes.

Ajax.
Ascendant.
Beauty of Woodhouse.
Florence Nightingale.
James Douglas.
Lady Peel.
Premier.
Squire Meynell.
Squire Trow.

Scarlet Flakes.

Annihilator.
Clipper.
Figaro.
John Bailey.
John Ball.
Justice Shallow.
Matador.
Meteor.
Mrs Porter.
Superb.

Rose Flakes.

Jessica.
John Ker.
Lady Gardiner.
Lovely Ann.
Mrs Brown.
Newton.
Poor Tom.
Rob Roy.
Rose of Stapleford.
Tim Bobbin.

*Select List of Picotees.**Red-edged.*

Alda Mary.
Clara.
Emily.
Henry.
Miss Turner.
Princess of Wales.

Purple-edged.

Admiration.
Amy Robsart.

Her Majesty.
Isabella.
Lord Elcho.
Mrs Norman.
Peeress.

Rose and Scarlet edged.

Ethel.
Lady.
Louisa.
Purity.
Regina.

Victoria.
Waverley.

Yellow Ground.

Alice Waite.
Edith.
Flavius.
Ne plus ultra.
Princess Beatrice.
Sultana.
Wizard.

Many of the Clove Carnations are exceedingly effective and sweet, such as Prince of Wales, Gloire de Nancy, and the old Crimson, Red, Scarlet, and White Cloves.

Pinks.—The cultivation of these lovely flowers is very similar to that of the Carnation. Like the Carnation, they thrive best in a loamy soil; and to grow them to the highest perfection, it is necessary to supply them with fresh turf'y loam and rotten cow-dung in preference to any other manure. In making up artificial beds of these, the proportion should be three parts loam and rather more than one part manure, to the depth of 15 or 18 inches. But for popular culture, what has

been said of Carnations is also applicable to Pinks, which are equally well worthy of cultivation, because as early summer flowers few are so beautiful, few so sweet, and few better adapted for bouquets.

To secure large, well-developed flowers, only one or two stems should be allowed to each plant, and the buds should be reduced to two or three. The directions given as to staking and tying Carnations are applicable to Pinks.

Propagation is generally effected by pipings or cuttings taken from the bottom growths, cutting them off below the third or fourth joint when the plants are in bloom, generally early in June, and taking hold of the top of the cuttings, and pulling them out of the socket at the lowest or third joint,—an operation termed “piping.” The growths thus prepared are put into light sandy soil, sufficiently thin not to crowd the pipings. After watering them, and after the foliage dries, the hand-glass top is put on and kept close till they root, when air should be gradually increased till they can be exposed altogether. Till rooted, give water sufficient to keep them moderately moist. This is the usual and quickest way of increasing Pinks; but I would strongly recommend their being layered, and managed the same as Carnations till well rooted. They make much more robust and stocky plants when layered in the open air, than when taken off and put under hand-glasses. This method takes longer time and more work, but results warrant its adoption.

When well rooted, lift them with balls, and plant them where required to bloom, not closer than 9 inches apart each way; and if the weather be dry, keep them watered regularly till well established.

Select List of Pinks.

Anne Boleyn, fine for forcing and cut flowers.	Harry Hooper, reddish purple. John Ball, dark plum.
Bertray, red, broad lacing.	Lady Craven, red.
Clara, red.	Lady Craven, red, extra.
Clifton, white.	Lord Herbert, rosy red.
Derby Day, deep pink, laced red.	Lord Lyons, deep rosy purple.
Device, purple.	Mary Ann, reddish purple.
Dr M'Lean, rosy purple lace.	Mrs Sinkins, pure white, fine.
Emerald, red lace.	Picturata.
Emily, dark.	Prince Frederick William, purple.
Excellent, red lace.	Scarlet Gem.
Genevieve, rosy purple.	Shirley Hibberd, rosy purple.
George White, purple.	Rosy Gem.
Godfrey, reddish purple, fine.	Victory, purple.

CHAPTER XII.

THE HARDY FLOWER-GARDEN—Continued.

ROSES.

THERE are few who may be termed fortunate enough to be the possessor of a garden, however humble, who do not desire, and who should not be encouraged, to have a bed or beds of Roses, as their space may allow. This “Queen of Flowers” has a beauty and fragrance which are scarcely attained in any other family of plants. But notwithstanding these charming features, and although, taken as an individual flower, there are none other in the whole fraternity of bedding plants to excel or even to rival the Rose, we do not recommend their extensive introduction to the formal parterre or group of beds where solid colouring, to be effective alike when closely inspected or viewed from a distance, is the object in view. This is not said disparagingly of the lovely Rose; and possibly, even for this purpose, with extra good management, it might, in its full flush of bloom, for a short time play a most prominent part. In many instances garden establishments of any note can and do afford to this grand flower a garden to itself; and probably there is not another family of plants that so much deserves to be so specially set apart and treated.

Like most other flowering plants, Roses are most effective in groups or beds of distinct colours. To grow a large collection or variety in this way demands a good amount of space, unless the groups be very small; and this cannot in many cases be adopted. But a mixed border, or a bed or two, is within the reach of most owners of gardens; and when the mixed system becomes a necessity for want of space, it must surely be termed a charming necessity, and, attached to a garden, must form a pleasing variety. In accordance with

the special object of this work, it is not intended to deal with the various phases of Rose-culture. To treat briefly of their culture as a flower-garden plant suitable for beds, pillars, and walls, is all that is attempted. To all who wish to become more thoroughly acquainted with Rose culture and capabilities, I would strongly recommend the careful study of 'The Rose Garden,' by Mr William Paul, who must be regarded as one of the most reliable of authorities; and this work of his seems to leave nothing about Roses unexplained, and expressed in the author's well-known clear style. There is also the more recently published and most captivating 'Book about Roses,' by the Rev. S. Reynolds Hole, which, in the most pleasing and impressive manner, instructs in all that is needed to be a successful grower and shower of the Rose.

Propagation by Cuttings.—Generally speaking, Roses for beds are best on their own roots, more especially where the soil is light. But in heavy cold soils it is preferable to plant such as are budded on the very dwarfest brier stock. The Hybrid Perpetuals, Bourbons, Hybrid Bourbons, and China and Hybrid China Roses, which are the very best for beds, succeed in the majority of soils. The propagation of these sorts (except the China and Bourbons, which require glass) by cuttings is nearly as easy as the propagation of the Gooseberry or Currant in the open border, without any protection whatever. This renders them peculiarly the Roses for amateurs, as well as all who wish to propagate their own Roses easily and speedily.

From the middle of September to the middle of October is the best time to propagate these varieties in this manner. In taking the cuttings, those that have well matured their growth, and are strong and straight, should be selected. When detaching these from the parent plants, take with them a small portion of the previous year's growth; and in doing this it is readily understood how not many cuttings should be removed near to one another, or the parent plant will be mutilated, whereas a thinning-out where they are crowded proves beneficial. In making the cuttings, cut their base cleanly through, just where the season's growth has started from, taking rather a thin slice of last year's wood to form a heel to the cutting: they should then be shortened to 9 or 10 inches in length, and are in this condition ready for being put into the ground. A border with a west or east aspect, or indeed any place where the soil is light and dry, answers well for putting them in. And the best way to plant them is precisely as practised in almost every garden

with Gooseberry cuttings,—namely, digging the ground as you go on with the putting in of the cuttings, in rows a foot apart, and from 5 to 6 inches between each cutting, and so deep as only to have three to four eyes above ground—fixing each row well in the ground.

To protect them from very severe frost is all the care that is necessary in the winter. Various ways can be pursued for thus keeping them. Of course, those who can afford to give them the protection of a frame or hand-glasses had better do so; but it is not indispensable to success. Evergreen boughs, mats, or any similar protection, answers perfectly well, till all danger from severe frosts is over.

These make beautifully-rooted plants by midsummer, without any further care than being kept clean, and the surface of the soil being stirred occasionally. And in November they can either be run out into nursery lines a foot or so apart each way, on deep, rich, loamy soil if possible, to make growth before being planted permanently in the beds; or they may be planted in the beds at once, to be afterwards thinned out when they get larger. In cold localities they stand the frost better if left unremoved till spring, when severe frosts are over. And probably it is best to leave the less robust-growing varieties to make two years' growth before being transplanted.

Those who can command pots and pans with a gentle bottom-heat can root them at midsummer, as soon as the plants have shed their first crop of bloom. They should be taken from the parent plant the same way as described for autumn cuttings; only they need not be so long,—about three inches, to insert in the pot, and two or three leaves or buds above the surface. Eight-inch pots, well drained, are firmly filled with about equal proportions of light loamy soil, leaf-mould, and silver sand,—the sand perhaps more than in equal proportion to the other two. When inserted not too thickly to crowd the leaves and cause them to be shed prematurely, they can be placed under the protection of glass and shaded from the sun, kept moderately moist at the root, and a little air put in for the night. Here they should remain for three weeks, or till the cuttings are calloused, when they should be plunged in a gentle bottom-heat, where they will soon emit roots. If put into bottom-heat at once, they are forced to grow and exhaust the store of food laid up in the cuttings; most of them would form a growth without making roots first, and many chances are against their ever making roots at all under such circumstances. After they

are rooted they can either be potted off singly into 4-inch pots—which is the best way—or they can be potted, two or three or four, into 6-inch pots, in rich soil, and returned to the pit or frame again for a few days, till they get hold of the soil. It is safest to winter those in pots under some protection till the following spring.

The Tea-scented, China, and Bourbon Roses do not root well except they have the protection of glass, but require no artificial heat to strike them successfully. Cuttings about 4 or 5 inches long, taken off and prepared in the same way as described in the case of Hybrid Perpetuals, Hybrid Chinas, and H. Bourbons, and put in sandy soil in any well-sheltered place in the autumn, will be rooted in spring, when they should be potted off and kept under glass till established in pots, and planted out in June. Throughout the winter they are apt to be tormented with worms, and the best way to prevent this is to put a layer of fresh soot under the prepared soil in the hand-glass. Damp, too, affects them injuriously; and the lights should be taken off occasionally when the weather is fine.

Nurserymen generally keep a stock of these Roses in pots, expressly for planting in beds, and they can now be purchased very cheaply. They force the Teas, and other sorts as well, like a Verbena or any other bedding plant, and strike the young growths in bottom-heat the same as any soft-wooded bedding plant; and cuttings so rooted make nice little plants the same year.

Propagation by Budding.—This is an interesting operation, and one at which many amateurs are expert and successful. The Dog-Rose, which grows so abundantly in the neglected hedgerows of many parts of England, and the Manetti, are the stocks mostly used for budding on. There is a great difference of opinion among the highest authorities as to the comparative merits of these two stocks. In ‘The Rose Garden,’ Mr William Paul asserts very positively that his experience condemns the Manetti as a stock for delicate Roses, for which others recommend it, and states that he finds them grow more vigorously on it for a year or two at first, but that they decline as rapidly. Our own experience, on rather light loamy soil, corroborates this.

The stocks should be planted in autumn, in well-manured, deeply-wrought, loamy soil. All the strong roots should be cut closely back, so as to encourage a tendency to make more fibrous ones. The stems should be cut back to the height desired. If for beds of dwarf Roses, they should be cut down

to within 6 or 8 inches of the surface of the ground. As soon as they begin to grow in spring, look over them, and remove all the buds but three, leaving those nearest the top of the stock, and that are arranged regularly round it.

The time to perform the operation of budding must be determined by circumstances; for although July is generally the best time in ordinary seasons, yet the exact time has to be determined. When the bark can be easily raised, or made to part from the shoot, then is the proper time to commence budding.

The way to perform the operation is so minutely and clearly described in ‘The Rose Garden,’ that we quote that authority in preference to our own:—

“In the first place, obtain a shoot from the tree whose identity we wish the stock to bear. From this the leaves are cut off—leaving, however, about half an inch of the leaf-stalk to every bud. Before proceeding further, the prickles should be rubbed off both stock and scion, that they may not interfere with the operation. Now take the budding-knife in the right hand, and make a longitudinal cut an inch in length, terminating at the top end with a cross cut. In using the knife, take care not to cut too deep; through the bark is all that is necessary. Now turn the handle of the knife to the incision, running it up and down the cut, twisting it slightly on either side, to raise the bark. All is now ready for the reception of the bud. Take the shoot which is to furnish it in the left hand, with the thicker part towards the finger end, and, with the knife in the right hand, commence cutting about half an inch behind the bud, passing the knife upwards under the bud, and to about the same distance beyond it. The knife should have a keen edge, that the bark may not be ruffled in the operation. In cutting out the bud, the knife should pass through almost level; it may, however, in some cases, dip a little when passing directly under the bud, as the wood before and behind it is not always on the same level. If the bud be cut ever so skilfully, there will be a little of the wood adhering to it. Some advise the removal of this; others say, let it remain: much depends on circumstances. If the shoot is not fully ripe, or if, from the nature of the variety, the wood is soft when taken, cut the bud as shallow as possible, and place it with the wood in the stock. But the shoot is usually firm and ripe, and then the wood is withdrawn. . . . Place the bud on the back of the stock, parallel with the longitudinal incision, and with the upper end towards the top of the shoot; then with the handle of the knife (a budding-knife, of course) raise the bark on the side opposite to that on which the bud is placed, pushing two-thirds of the bud beneath the bark with the thrust. Now raise the bark on the opposite side, and the bud may be gently pushed under with the handle of the knife, or will probably drop in. When properly placed, the eye of the bud should be directly under the opening

caused by the raising of the bark of the longitudinal incision ; if it be not so, the handle of the knife should be inserted beneath the bark, to push it to a right position. . . . After being inserted, the bud should be drawn upwards to the cross cut, and the upper end cut at the same angle, that its bark may abut against the bark of the stock laid open by the cross cut. The bud then is inserted, and it now remains to bind it in. For this purpose take cotton or bast,—the former is generally preferred. Commence tying at the bottom of the cut, passing upwards till the whole length of the incision is bound over. . . . About three weeks after the operation has been performed, the cotton may be removed. If the bud is not well united, let it be tied up *loosely* again ; if it is, leave it united, and there is an end of care till the following spring. In February, the wild shoot may be cut away 2 inches beyond the buds, when the latter will break, and soon form a tree."

Propagation by Layering.—Bush Roses are easily increased by the ordinary process of layering, which is simple and easily performed even by the inexperienced. The ground round each plant is forked over to the depth of 3 or 4 inches, and well pulverised, so as to be free and easily worked amongst. A trowel, a sharp knife, and some ordinary wooden hooks or pegs, are the tools required for the work. July and August are the two months in which most generally the shoots are in a good state for layering. They are best in a firm but not over-ripe state, with the foliage fully developed and healthy. The medium shoots are the most preferable, avoiding the strongest and weakest. Take the shoot with the left hand, and bend it down towards the ground—calculating that the incised part has to be buried 2 or 3 inches deep—then cut the shoot half through at the part to be lowest in the earth ; and then upwards from this cut split the shoot, say 2 inches, and bend the top of the shoot upwards, so as to throw the split part or heel down perpendicularly into the earth. When thus ready, make a hole with the trowel, put a little sand in the bottom of it and round the heel, and fix it firmly with the peg ; tie the top or layer to a stake, and fill in the soil firmly, and the operation is complete. By October, or early in November, they will be well rooted, and should be removed, and either potted or planted in a rich, light, loamy soil, where they will soon make nice plants.

Another very simple way of layering the Rose is to make the incision and heel in the same way as described, and to tie round it a bunch of moss or sphagnum, and a little soil in it. Into this the layer roots, and is taken off and treated afterwards like

ordinary layers. If the weather be dry, the moss requires to be watered ; and this should be tied to a stake, to prevent its being lashed and twisted by the wind.

A deep, rather heavy loam on a dry or well-drained subsoil is most suitable for the Rose ; but ordinary garden soil, if deeply worked and well manured with good substantial manure, grows them very well. They are particularly impatient of stagnant water about their roots ; and no manner of treatment will ensure success till the ground be thoroughly drained. Where the soil is very clayey and cold, Mr W. Paul recommends very strongly the mixture of burned earth ; the soundness of which advice I proved nearly twenty years ago on the clayey soil of Hertfordshire, where I burned clayey soil to a large extent, and watched its beneficial effect on many things besides Roses. A clayey bed can be very thoroughly improved by taking the bottom spit out, burning it, and mixing it with a good dressing of rotten leaves with the rest of the staple. Light hot soils are improved for Rose-beds by the admixture of loam and rotten cow-manure, in preference to either stable-manure or leaf-mould. In planting Roses on heavy clayey soils, it is always best to defer planting till spring, when all danger of severe frost is over, and after the ground is in good working order ; and on such soil a spadeful or two of lighter and rich soil about their roots in planting helps to give them a start. Tea-scented and other tender Roses should be grown against the shelter of a wall in all cold places ; and in their case a dry soil is more desirable, both on account of their ripening better and standing more cold in dry than in heavy wet soils. Protection can easily be afforded to dwarf Teas by shaking a little dry straw or ferns among and over them ; and to those on walls by mats. Mr Paul's directions for pruning, with a view to secure abundance of flowers—the object sought in bedding particularly—are so excellent and practical, that I quote them in preference to my own :—

"When about to prune a Rose, I first look to the name, that I may know the habit and character of the variety I have to deal with. I must know whether it is a summer or perpetual bloomer, a strong or weakly grower, and whether the flowers are produced fine from low, middle, or top eyes, indiscriminately or not. It is only by knowing and considering these points that we can prune with accuracy and success. It is an axiom in Rose-pruning, that the more vigorous in habit a plant is, the more shoots should be thinned out, and the less should those that are left be shortened in. This has in view, in particular, the production of flowers in

the most perfect condition. The eyes near the base of those kinds which form short shoots (especially the autumnals) usually produce the best flowers ; and in the vigorous growers we prefer, for the same reason, the eyes about the middle of the shoot, or nearer its summit, if the wood be well ripened. All Roses make two growths in the year—first in spring, and again in summer, shortly after they have flowered. Some of the autumnals start afresh at short intervals throughout summer and autumn ; but we wish at present to speak of spring and summer growths only, and ask to which we should look as calculated to produce the best flowers ? When the shoots formed in summer are well ripened, we prefer them, and for these reasons. The growth at that season is generally more rapid, and the shoots, although usually of less strength, are freer in the bark ; the eyes are more prominent and plump, and well stored with the juices required to supply nourishment and promote growth.”

Of course these excellent remarks apply to dwarf Roses on their own roots in beds, as well as to those worked on other stocks. But there is one object to be kept in view besides fine individual blossoms when Roses are planted for effect in masses, and that is, a comparative amount of uniformity and compactness of growth. And in pruning for this object, the weaker growths should be pruned back to a few eyes, and the strong growths left from one to even two feet. But these latter should be fastened down, either to stakes or pegged down, so as to preserve the symmetry of the beds, if such is necessary, to correspond with surrounding objects ; and in that way they throw up their blooms vertically, and have at the same time a check put upon their strong growth, while weaker growths reap the benefit. In summer it is well to look them over, and cut partially such rampant shoots, which Roses on their own roots in rich soil are apt to make. We have seen very pretty beds and lines of Roses (Hybrid Perpetuals) formed by thinning out all the weaker shoots, and pegging the strong ones down close to the surface of the ground. This applies with greatest force to Roses on their own roots, which, although they do not yield such large individual blooms as when budded on the Brier, are more suitable for dwarf beds, and are longer lived than the generality of budded plants.

A top-dressing of rotten manure should be applied annually to the beds in autumn, and slightly forked in in spring, taking care not to injure the roots ; and on light poor soils, watering with liquid manure, such as the drainage from stables and guano-water, is very beneficial, as also a good mulching of moss in the summer time. It looks neat, and prevents evaporation.

Green-fly and the Rose-grub are the chief enemies of Roses, and must be kept in check by syringing with tobacco-water for the former, and constant hand-picking for the latter.

Hybrid Perpetual Roses suitable for Beds, and general effect for Flower-gardens.

Abbé Bramerel, crimson, shaded brown.	Her Majesty, clear rose; extra fine.
Abel Grand, pale pink.	Hippolyte Jamain, bright rose, shaded carmine.
Achille Gonod, carmine.	Horace Vernet, reddish purple.
Adelina Patti, rosy carmine.	Imperatrice Eugenie, rosy white.
P Alexandreine Bachmeteff, red.	Jean Liabaud, crimson.
Alfred Colomb, fiery red.	Jean Soupert, purple.
▲ Anna Alexieff, rosy, tinted with pink.	John Hopper, rose.
P Anna de Diesbach, rose.	P Jules Margottin, cherry.
Annie Laxton, rose.	La Brillante, rosy scarlet.
Annie Wood, crimson.	La France, white.
P Antoine Ducher, bright rose.	P A La Reine, rose.
Antoine Montan, bright rose.	La Rosière, amaranth.
Baron de Bonstetten, velvety crimson.	Le Havre, vermillion.
▲ Baroness Rothschild, light rose.	Lord Clyde, scarlet.
Baronne Maurice des Graviers, crimson.	Lord Raglan, scarlet crimson.
▲ Baronne Prevost, pale rose.	Louis XIV., crimson.
▲ Beauty of Waltham, crimson.	P Louis van Houtte, red.
P Belzunce, vermillion.	Louise Darzens, white.
Black Prince, dark crimson.	▲ Madame Boll, rose.
Boule de Neige, white.	Madame Caillat, rosy red.
Camille Bernardin, bright red.	Madame Charles Verdier, vermillion rose.
▲ Caroline de Sansal, flesh.	Madame Charles Wood, crimson.
Charles Lefebvre, scarlet.	Madame Eugene Appert, rose.
Charles Rouillard, lilac rose.	P Madame Hippolyte Jamain, white.
Charles Turner, No. 2, bright red.	Madame Huzard, clear rose.
Comte de Serenyi, delicate rose.	Madame La Baronne de Rothschild, rose.
P Docteur Dor, red.	Madame Lacharme, white.
Duc de Cazes, crimson.	Madame Lefebvre, rose.
Duc de Rohan, crimson.	Madame Victor Verdier, carmine.
Duchess of Connaught, crimson.	Madame Vidot, pink.
Duchess of Edinburgh, silvery white, rose centre.	Marchioness of Exeter, rose.
Duchesse de Caylus, carmine.	Maréchal Vaillant, scarlet.
Duke of Wellington, crimson.	Marie Baumann, vermillion.
Dupuy-Jamain, crimson.	Marie Rady, bright red.
Earl of Beaconsfield, cherry.	Marquise de Castellane, rose.
P Edward Morren, rose carmine.	Maurice Bernardin, vermillion.
Elie Morel, rosy lilac.	Mrs Harry Turner, crimson.
Estandard de Lyon, bright red.	Mrs Jowett, glowing crimson.
Eugene Appert, scarlet.	▲ Oxonian, rose.
Felix Genero, rosy violet.	Paul Neron, dark rose.
Français Fontaine, reddish purple.	Paul Verdier, bright rose.
P General Jacqueminot, brilliant red.	Peach Blossom, peach.
Gloire de Ducher, dark purple.	Pierre Notting, purplish crimson.
Gloire Lyonnaise, yellow.	Pride of Waltham, flesh colour.
	Prince Camille de Rohan, crimson.
	Princess Mary of Cambridge, flesh.
	Queen of Waltham, rosy cherry.

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| P Queen Victoria, white.
Reynolds Hole, maroon.
Richard Laxton, reddish crimson.
Sénateur Vaisse, dazzling crimson.

S ir Garnet Wolseley, vermillion, shaded carmine.
Souvenir de Charles Montault, vivid red.
Souvenir de Julie Gonod, rose.
Souvenir de Louis van Houtte, purple rose. | Souvenir de Spa, fiery crimson.
Star of Waltham, crimson.
P Triomphe de l'Exposition, reddish crimson.
A Triomphe de France, crimson.
Vicomte Vigier, violet rose.
Victor Trouillard, brilliant crimson.

V ictor Verdier, cherry.
Violette Bowyer, white.
A William Griffiths, pale rose.
Xavier Olibo, velvety black. |
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"Those marked **A** are fine late autumn bloomers, and those marked **P** are fine Pillar Roses. Pillar Roses are very ornamental objects in good health and full of bloom, and are very imposing when planted in a line—for instance, along the side of a walk, with evergreens a little distance behind them as a background. The supports or pillars are of course most durable if of iron or cast-metal; but wood, if that portion of it which is sunk into the ground be charred, lasts a long time. Larch poles with the snags left about 6 inches long, are commonly used for Pillar Roses, and last remarkably well.

"We commence pruning at the bottom of the pillar, by thinning out the vigorous shoots formed there. Two are cut off within a foot of the ground, and left to fill the base. . . . We ascend the pillar, thinning as we proceed, till we reach the top. Here we select one or two of the strongest and best-placed shoots to continue the ascent, and tie them up. From their position, an abundant flow of sap furnishes them with the means of free growth, and favours the rise of the plant. The small lateral or side shoots are now cut back to three or four eyes. If any spot in the pillar is thin, we cut a shoot back to one or two eyes, and thus get a strong shoot or two, by which we fill the vacuity next season. . . . We continue to follow this method of procedure from time to time, tying up the leading shoots till the pillar is covered the desired height, which perhaps should not exceed 12 feet. The lateral shoots of short well-ripened growth are those which produce flowers with the greatest certainty. They may be shortened in to four or six eyes. Pillar Roses send up almost invariably strong shoots from the base of the plant during summer and autumn. These, if not wanted, may be cut out as soon as discovered; but it is well to leave one or two, as they may often be made use of to keep the pillar in a vigorous state when perfected, or to renovate it when decaying. By keeping up a constant supply of young shoots, the old hide-bound stems may be removed as they exhibit symptoms of debility."¹

Bourbon and Hybrid Bourbons.

A Acidalie,	B white, blush centre.
A rmosa, : : :	B pink.
B aronne Gonella, : : :	B crimson.

¹ Paul's Rose Garden.

▲ Catherine Guillot,	.	.	.	B	lilac rose ; fine autumnal flower
P Charles Duval,	.	.	.	H B	pink ; large and excellent.
P Charles Lawson,	.	.	.	H B	rose ; full and good.
P Coupe d'Hébé,	.	.	.	H B	deep pink ; splendid.
▲ Dr Berthet,	.	.	.	B	cherry, shaded with purple
Duchesse de Thuringe,	.	.	.	B	white, tinged with lilac ; fine
Emotion,	.	.	.	B	French white.
▲ Empress Eugenie,	.	.	.	B	rosy blush.
Juno,	.	.	.	H B	pale rose ; very large.
Louis Margottin,	.	.	.	B	light rose.
Louise Odier,	.	.	.	B	rose.
Mdlle. Emain,	.	.	.	H B	white.
Model of Perfection,	.	.	.	B	rose.
P Paul Perras,	.	.	.	H B	pale rose.
Paul Ricaut,	.	.	.	H B	crimson ; very fine.
P Pierre de St Cyr,	.	.	.	B	pink.
Prince Albert,	.	.	.	B	scarlet crimson ; free bloomer.
Queen,	.	.	.	B	salmon ; splendid bedder.
Queen of Bedders,	.	.	.	B	purplish crimson.
Reine Victoria,	.	.	.	B	brilliant rose.
Rev. H. Dombrain,	.	.	.	B	crimson, shaded violet.
P Sir Joseph Paxton,	.	.	.	B	rose, shaded crimson.
▲ Souvenir de la Malmaison,	.	.	.	B	flesh colour ; fine for beds.

The whole of these make good bedding Roses, and many of them are amongst the best autumnal-flowering Roses we have, and do well in light loamy soils on their own roots. They are not quite so hardy as the Hybrid Perpetuals, and in cold localities would be best planted on walls, or exclusively in low bushes; so that, when severe winters occur, some fern or litter might be easily shaken among and over them for protection. This of course applies especially to cold situations and severe winters. The special feature in pruning them is, that it is best to prune closer than in the case of Hybrid Perpetuals. The weakest shoots should be removed entirely to prevent overcrowding, and the strongest cut back to three or four eyes; and the operation is best deferred till spring, especially if late flowering be the object.

Chinese, Hybrid Chinese, and Crimson Chinese.

Alfred Aubert,	.	.	.	C	bright rose.
P Blairii, No. 2,	.	.	.	H C	rosy blush.
P Brennus,	.	.	.	H C	light carmine.
P Chénédolé,	.	.	.	H C	vermilion.
Clara Sylvain,	.	.	.	C	pure white.
Cramoisie Supérieure,	.	.	.	C C	crimson.
Ducher,	.	.	.	C	pure white.
Fabvier,	.	.	.	C C	vivid crimson ; splendid.
Henri Cinq,	.	.	.	C	light crimson.
La Fraicheur,	.	.	.	C	rosy white, yellow centre.
La Seduisante,	.	.	.	C	rosy crimson.
Lady of the Lake,	.	.	.	C	pure white ; fine bedder.
Madame Bréon,	.	.	.	C	rose ; very beautiful.

Madame Lauriol de Barnay,	.	H C	clear rose.
Mrs Bosanquet,	.	C	delicate flesh colour.
P Magna rosea,	.	H C	light rose; large and fine.
Napoleon,	:	C	pink; large and fine.
Tancredi,	.	C	purplish crimson; fine.

The Chinese (c) and Crimson Chinese (cc) varieties are the most continuous blooming Roses we possess. Hence the term Monthly Rose has been applied to them with great propriety; for from summer onwards to Christmas, weather permitting, they yield their great profusion of bloom: hence their superiority as bedding Roses. They are more impatient of severe frost than either the Bourbon or Hybrid Perpetuals. They bear pegging down in beds very well. If after the early blooming shoots have shed their blossoms, some of the strongest are shortened back regularly all over the bed, a more regular and plentiful succession of bloom will be secured, as the younger or later growths will come away with greater vigour and regularity, and so maintain an even crop of bloom. The Hybrid Chinese bloom only in summer. There is an interesting section of the Chinese Rose, which, from their diminutive growth and bloom, are termed Fairy Roses. They are very pretty for edgings to other groups, especially on dry soils and mild localities. Of these, Alba (white), Fairy (pink), Jenny (crimson), and Nemesis (crimson), are amongst the best.

Tea-scented.

Abricoté, apricot.			
Adam, rosy salmon; very fine.			
Alba rosea, white, centre peach.			
Aline Sisley, purplish violet.			
H Amabilis, flesh colour, centre buff.			
Barillet Deschamps, pale lemon.			
Beauty of Glazenvwood, golden yellow.			
H Belle de Bordeaux, pink, crimson centre.			
Belle Fleur d'Anjou, satiny white.			
Belle Lyonnaise, canary yellow; very fine.			
Bougère, salmon; very fine.			
H Buret, crimson.			
Catherine Mermet, fleshy rose.			
China, white, creamy centre; fine.			
H Comte de Paris, fleshy rose.			
Climbing Devonensis, cream.			
H Devonensis, cream; splendid old rose.			
Duc de Magenta, rosy salmon; fine.			
Duchess of Edinburgh, crimson.			
H Duchess of Westminster, bright cerise.			
	H Duke of Connaught, deep crimson.		
	Elize Sauvage, pale yellow; beautiful.		
	Etoile de Lyon, clear sulphur yellow.		
	Eugène Desgaches, light rose; very fine.		
	H Gloire de Dijon, yellow, suffused with salmon.		
	Goubault, bright rose; very fine.		
	H Homère, rose and salmon.		
	Jean Ducher, salmon yellow.		
	Madam Berard, bright rose.		
	Madam Berard, yellow.		
	Madame Ducher, bright yellow.		
	Madame Falcot, yellow.		
	Madame de St Joseph, pink; very fine.		
	H Madame Damaizin, cream and salmon.		
	Madame Maurin, cream, shaded with salmon.		
	Maréchal Bugeaud, rose; very fine.		
	H Maréchal Niel, sulphur yellow; fine.		
	Mdlle. Marie Arnaud, canary yellow.		

- H Niphotos, lemon ; very large.
 Nina, white.
 H Pearl, white ; fine.
 Perle des Jardines, orange yellow.
 H Souvenir d'un Ami, salmon and
 rose ; fine.

- H Safrano, saffron.
 The Bride, pure white ; fine.
 Vicomtesse de Cazes, orange yellow ;
 fine.
 Viscountess Folkestone, creamy
 pink.

The Tea Roses are singularly delicate in their colouring, the blending of tints almost bidding defiance to a proper description, and their peculiar and pleasant fragrance is agreeable to nearly every one. They are, however, tender as compared to other sorts, and therefore not suitable for outdoors in cold soils and climates, except against walls where they can be easily protected from frost, and where they ripen their wood and bloom the best. We have marked H those that are hardiest. They make beautiful beds in warm soils and localities. In preparing beds for them, drainage should be particularly attended to, and the bed elevated above the surrounding level. During winter some evergreen boughs should be stuck in amongst them to afford them protection. Planted under glass, they are magnificent objects, and well deserve such a provision being made for them in large establishments. Pruning should always be deferred till after the frosts of spring are past.

Noisette.

- B Aimée Vibert, pure white ; splendid.
 Bouquet d'Or, deep yellow.
 Caroline Kuster, lemon yellow ;
 fine.
 Celine Forestier, yellow.
 Cerise, rose.
 Cornelia, lilac rose.
 B Du Luxembourg, lilac rose.
 P La Biche, white.
 Lamarque, yellow.
 Madame Massot, white.

- B Madame Plantier, white.
 Margarita, yellow edged with white.
 B Miss Glegg, white.
 Ophirie, golden salmon ; fine.
 Pumila alba, white.
 Reve d'Or, deep yellow.
 Sir Walter Scott, rosy lilac.
 P Solfaterre, yellow.
 P Triomphe de Rennes, canary.
 William A. Richardson, orange.

Those marked B are most suitable for beds ; and where late flowers are an object, the Noisette Roses are very useful, as they keep on expanding their large clusters very late in the autumn. Some of them form fine Pillar Roses, such as Du Luxembourg and La Biche. They should not be so closely pruned as is recommended for the Bourbons and Chinese.

Provence or Cabbage Rose.

- Common or Cabbage, rosy pink.
 Cristata or Crested, rosy pink.
 Rachel, rose.

- Reine de Provence, lilac blush.
 Scarlet Provence, rose.
 Unique or White Provence, white.

The sweetness and beauty of these summer Roses make them universal favourites. They require liberal treatment as to manure, or they will not grow and flower well. They are very hardy, and best propagated by layers. In pruning, they should be closely cut back to two or three buds; the more robust growers may be left somewhat longer. There are some dwarf-growing or miniature Provence varieties, of which Burgundy, De Meaux, and Spong are the best.

Moss and Perpetual Moss.

Those marked P are the Perpetuals.

Baronne de Wassenaer, crimson.	Madame Edouard, dwarf, blush and white.
Blush, blush.	P Madame Landeau, red, striped white.
Captain Ingram, purple.	P Madame Moreau, vermillion red.
Celina, crimson.	Perpetual White, white.
Common, rose.	Princess Alice, blush.
Crimson, crimson.	Princess Royal, flesh.
Cristata, rosy pink.	Reine Blanche, white.
Etna, crimson.	Salet, rose.
P James Veitch, dark violet.	White Bath, white.
Julie de Mersent, rosy blush.	P White Perpetual, pure white.
Lanei, purplish crimson.	

These are most exquisite summer-blooming Roses. Like the Provence, they require a rich soil to cause them to develop their flowers and moss well. They require to be pruned in the same way as the Cabbage Rose. The Common Moss is the sweetest.

Austrian or Yellow Rose.

Double Yellow. Harrisonii. Persian Yellow.

These are very hardy and favourite Roses, and form probably the most graceful standards of any, especially Harrisonii. They also make very beautiful beds pegged down while they last in bloom, which, however, is not very long. They require a rich dry soil to grow them well. In pruning them, it is only necessary to thin the growths out to prevent overcrowding, and those left should not be shortened beyond topping the longest, to form the plant into shape. Harrisonii requires even less pruning than the others, and it is probably the most desirable to grow, as it forms beautiful heads as standards, and is also the best for a bed when so grown.

The old double yellow, sulphurea, is a beautiful Rose, but very shy of blooming. I succeeded in blooming it regularly in Middlesex, planted against a wall, pruning and training it exactly like a peach, but never topping it beyond the dead tops

of the shoots. The shoots were kept closely nailed to the wall as they grew, and managed thus, it flowered regularly ; and a beautiful object is a perfect Rose of this variety.

The foregoing lists comprise the Roses that are, generally speaking, most suitable for planting for producing effect in gardens. For beds, the Chinese give the most continual bloom, and the Bourbons are excellent for autumnal flowering. The Hybrid Perpetuals, though there is a pause in their flowering, are indispensable as summer and autumn Roses. There are many beautiful Roses included in the Damask and Gallica or French Rose sections ; but as it is foreign to my object to treat of Roses except in the most popular and useful way, I pass them over, and will enumerate a few varieties which are most useful as wall and climbing Roses. Almost all Roses that are suitable for pillars are also suitable for walls ; but there are some not generally used or suited for pillars that are, from their peculiarity of habit, strictly speaking, Wall Roses.

Climbing Roses suitable for covering walls, fences, pillars, arbours, arches, &c. :—

Boursault.

Amadis, crimson.	Gracilis, bright red.
De l'Isle, blush.	Inermis, red.

Ayrshire.

Alice Gray, creamy blush.	Queen of the Belgians, creamy white.
Ayrshire Queen, purple crimson.	Ruga, flesh.
Dundee Rambler, creamy white.	Splendens, flesh.

These are, from their hardy and free nature, suitable for covering walls, or the north side of any object that it is desirable to cover. The Ayrshire, in particular, are quick growers ; and for running over an object and covering it rapidly, they are admirably adapted. They are not very particular as to soil, and thrive almost anywhere. The Bour-sault Roses should not be much cut back at pruning ; but instead, the shoots should be well thinned out, and those left, laid in nearly their whole length. The Ayrshires require very little care of any sort, beyond being thinned out a little, and confined to the object they are designed to cover. They form beautiful weeping Roses, budded on tall stocks.

Evergreen or Sempervirens.

Adelaide d'Orléans, white.	Myrianthes, peach.
Felicité Perpétuelle, flesh colour.	Rampant, pure white.
Jaunâtre, fawn.	Spectabilis.

These are suitable for the same purposes as the Ayrshire, and have the additional recommendation of being nearly evergreen, for they retain their foliage till far on into winter. In pruning them, they should be treated similar to the Boursault—the shoots thinned out, and those left not shortened back much. They make excellent pillar and weeping Roses. Those three sections are best adapted for cold localities, where such as the Banksian do not succeed. The autumnal-flowering Roses, such as the hardiest of the Teas, the Noisettes, Hybrid Perpetuals, the Chinas, &c., also make excellent wall Roses, but of course are not so well adapted for covering quickly as those climbing or running varieties.

The Banksian.

Alba grandiflora, white.	Old Yellow, yellow.
Jaune serin, bright yellow; fine.	White, white.
Jaune vif, yellow.	

These are magnificent objects on a wall in early summer, when they produce their enormous profusion of flowers in clusters. They are, however, tender, and only suitable for localities where the soil is dry and the climate good. Where they succeed well, they grow very rapidly, making very long shoots. The older they get, the more freely do they bloom. They should be pruned in summer, immediately after they are done blooming. The shoots should be thinned out, particularly those that are of most gross growth, as they are least likely to ripen. The growths left should not be shortened back much—merely topped.

The Macartney and Microphylla are also good climbing Roses, and bloom in autumn; but they are, like the Banksian, tender, and require warm, sheltered situations. In the generality of localities, it is much better to substitute for these tender varieties the Boursault and Ayrshires for summer, and the hardiest of the Noisettes and Perpetuals for autumn flowering.

Almost all the Roses we have enumerated are excellent as standard and half-standard Roses; and those who admire them in that form can find plenty of them very cheap in the principal nurseries all over the country.

The climbing Musk Roses are esteemed for their peculiar fragrance; and being abundant autumn flowerers, and hardy, they are suitable for pillars and walls. "Rivers" and "Princess," the former pink and the latter yellow, are excellent varieties; and so is the white Musk.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE HARDY FLOWER-GARDEN—Continued.

SPRING FLOWERS.

To some extent, the present style of summer and autumn flower-gardening has been built up and carried out on the ruins of spring flowers. The great numbers of half-hardy and tender plants suitable for summer display that have to be propagated and cultivated, have led in most instances to the neglect, to a great extent, of those hardy plants that are adapted to beautify the parterres in spring. It would, however, be difficult to say that any absolute reason exists why this should be so. The care which the one set of plants necessitates, does not necessarily become a reason why the other set should be neglected. There can be no doubt that the fact of the most opulent and fashionable families being, in the majority of cases, away from their country-seats in the spring and early summer, has been the chief cause of directing the efforts and attention of gardeners to the crowding of as many flowers into the autumnal months as possible. Hence the eagerness with which every plant that blooms profusely, or is remarkable for its foliage during that time of the year, has been craved for and cultivated in great numbers. And hence, also, one great reason why spring gardening has been neglected. This example, set by the leaders of society, has exercised a wonderful influence on the owners of small gardens; and they, too, have paid less attention to spring flowers than they ought to have done.

Of course there is nothing that could justify the gardener, except an express command, in devoting his resources and energies to the decoration of the flower-garden during the time that his employers are absent. His interest lies in bending all the ingenuity of his mind to the making of the garden most gay and interesting, either in spring, or in summer

or autumn, or both, as his employer may wish, and allows means for. Depend upon it, the interest of gardeners lies here. This does not apply to a large class, for whom especially this work is intended—such as business men and amateurs, who derive so much healthy relaxation to both body and mind from their gardens all the year round, and who, if they leave their villas for a season, do so in autumn.

A reaction in favour of spring flowers and hardy herbaceous plants in selection has taken place, and nurserymen find it to their interest to get up lists of these, and are finding a brisk trade for them. Where the families are resident in spring, the beds and borders are now, in increasing instances, not left empty all the winter and spring. The result has been nothing less effective than Flora's ample spring stores of beautiful objects would warrant any one acquainted with them to expect. It is not necessary to grow a vast number of species and varieties to produce a beautiful, if a less imposing, effect in spring as well as in summer. But in respect to variety, and taking annuals and bulbs into consideration as well as hardy perennials, spring unfolds perhaps more beauty and variety of form than does the glow of autumn in plants suitable for beds and borders. And it need scarcely be said that plants, to be available for flowering in March, April, and May, must of necessity be perfectly hardy, and, for this reason, within the reach of the humblest amateur who commands a few square yards of a flower border, even if he has not so much as a common garden hand-glass. Such can make their garden gay more easily, and at less expense, than it is possible to do in summer and autumn with half-hardy plants. Moreover, spring flowers are nearly all so exceedingly easy to cultivate well, that they are in this respect also within the reach of the great majority, much more so than the class of plants so largely cultivated for the parterre in summer. On this account alone, it is exceedingly desirable that the cultivation of, and taste for, spring-flowering plants should be encouraged. They are peculiarly the flowers for the million. We can hardly agree with those who have affirmed that flowers are in many cases the *mere toys* of the rich, but can conceive how they may become something like friends and comforters of the lowly, and produce in the mind, many times, the feeling which fortified the spirit and strengthened the nerves and hopes of the lonely desert wanderer, when he let his eye rest on the desert moss. The authoress of the 'Life of Hedley Vicars' showed how well

she understood the influence of the love of flowers upon the human heart, when she placed a posy on the plate of each navvy when he sat down to her tea-meetings at Beckenham. These "floral apostles" come to us in spring especially, ministering almost human sympathy; and it is sincerely to be desired that their cultivation should be extended and encouraged among all classes.

If means are in any case circumscribed—and, in such circumstances, the filling of a whole parterre of considerable extent with spring-flowering plants cannot comfortably be accomplished in that order and variety which an ambitious mind desires at once—a compromise should be made. By this I mean to convey, that from the variety afforded by annuals in conjunction with such other plants as are easily procured and very rapidly increased, such as Daisies and Violas, and with the aid of cheap bulbs, such as Crocuses and Tulips, a very gay spring parterre may be attained in a very short time; and by degrees other plants more difficult to procure, and tedious to increase, can be added. In fact, the same choice afforded in autumnal flower-gardening is equally to be commanded in spring.

As will at once become apparent to the inexperienced by the lists that are furnished, there is no lack of spring-flowering plants available for all classes. There is a rich and most beautiful fund in common bulbous plants alone. Such things as Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocuses, Narcissus, Scillas, &c., need only be named to make this evident. From the cultivation of the hardy Scillas we can testify from experience that much interest arises. Hardy annuals and biennials can be raised easily and rapidly; and these alone, in combination with a few varieties of Violas, wonderfully improved of late years for grouping purposes, to say nothing of perennials, afford a considerable amount of variety, and sufficient in colours for most effective combinations. The odour and lively tints of some of these plants are peculiar to themselves. And though we may not be able to point to the dense massiveness of the scarlet Pelargonium, the Verbena, and the Calceolaria, as available for autumn, spring can boast of more delicious odours, and far more delicacy and variety of tints. True, spring cannot produce the lovely foliage of the Mrs Pollock class of Pelargoniums; but there is the golden Arabis, which always puts on its best dress towards winter. Spring is certainly deficient in, though not destitute of, dark-foliaged plants; for there is the dark-leaved Ajuga, and in silver variegation there are the variegated Arabis

and Euonymus radicans variegatus, as well as the variegated Ivies and Periwinkles, and various deep golden and silver shrubs, the beauty of which is most conspicuous in winter and spring, while trees are leafless. Time will not fail to make good these seeming deficiencies; and in the meantime it cannot be said of spring, that from lack of variety it does not encourage the lovers of flowers to drape their gardens with the loveliest hues, and perfume the air with the most refreshing odours in spring as well as in autumn. But instead of balancing the adaptability of the two classes of plants for producing beautiful combinations, the various capabilities of spring-flowering plants will be adverted to individually, as they are treated of in detail. I will only further say, for the encouragement of all owners of gardens who reside at their places in spring, that, for sweetness and chasteness of effect, many of the spring combinations far surpass those of autumn, and that many of the spring colours are as brilliant—and some much more so—as any that autumn can produce. What can surpass the purples of the Pansies, the yellows of the Alyssum and Cheiranthus, the Tulip and the Crocus? And in deep bright blues, the Scillas, the Gentians, and Forget-me-not stand unrivalled. Then there are the white Violas, Daisies, Forget-me-not, &c., that are scarcely rivalled for whites by the popular favourites of the autumn parterre. The Anemone affords scarlet of the most vivid kind, although, as beds for general effect, not equal to the scarlet Pelargoniums. I will now proceed to treat of the various plants in detail, and to be comprehensive, will deal with Annuals as a whole; for their management is so nearly alike, that to treat of them individually is not necessary. All the herbaceous and bulbous plants treated of in this department, are of course equally well adapted for the mixed herbaceous border.

Annuals.—In selecting a border on which to sow Annuals, one with an east or west aspect is preferable to one having a south or north one. The south is too scorching, and on the north they are sure to become drawn and tender. To avoid a gross growth, the soil should be rather poor than rich. A moderately light free-working soil is the best; and if shallow digging is to be recommended in any case in flower-gardening, it is in that of sowing Annuals, to be transplanted with balls and as fibry roots as possible. If the ground is open and well worked to a great depth, those varieties which have a tendency to make tap-roots will have the more encouragement to do so,

and their removal to the flower-garden beds and borders in autumn, with balls and fibry compact roots, is rendered more uncertain. A well-worked staple of about 6 to 8 inches, resting on rather a solid or firm subsoil, is more likely to produce compactly surface-rooted plants.

The sowing of Annuals is as simple as the sowing of a bed of cabbage. They can either be sown broadcast in beds, where a great quantity is required, or the ground can be divided into 4 or 5 feet beds, and then drills drawn lengthwise in the beds at 3 to 4 inches apart. It is much better to take up an extra space than to sow too thickly on a smaller. Should the weather be dry at the time of sowing, a good plan is to give the bed a soaking of water the evening previous to sowing; and after sowing, to cover with fine moderately moist soil. The small seeds should be covered a quarter of an inch, the large half an inch; and larger seeds, such as Lupins, an inch deep. If the weather be very scorching, a few evergreen boughs laid over the beds will prevent rapid evaporation, and the vegetation is more likely to be regular and healthy. Especially is this applicable to the Forget-me-not, which is naturally fond of moisture. Indeed, though this lovely spring bedding plant flowers very well by being treated the same as the other Annuals, it flowers more vigorously when two years old.

As in the case of all Annual sowing, slugs must be looked after as soon as the seedlings appear above ground; but these enemies are not so troublesome in the case of autumn as in that of spring sowing. At whatever time or for whatever purpose Annuals are cultivated, they should never be allowed to spoil from crowding; and if in any case this is likely to occur to a serious extent before transplanting time, the beds should be looked over and thinned. When any plant runs up speedily from overcrowding, it suffers serious injury, from which it seldom entirely recovers.

Where room could be afforded, the strong tap-root producers, which are apt to grow too gross, especially in damp seasons, and become difficult to transplant with safety, would be best sown in pots, and kept in an open airy situation, where they could grow dwarfer, and could be transplanted with balls without receiving a check. The whole of these Annuals can be successfully cultivated for spring blooming, by sowing in heat in small pots in January; and after being properly hardened off, planted out in February, weather permitting. But gardeners and amateurs have always so many other things demanding space under glass at this early season, that it is desirable to

sow in autumn, and have recourse to early sowing to make up gaps that may occur in the course of the winter.

In cold damp localities I would recommend a more limited use of Annuals than in more favoured places. There are so many perfectly hardy things, among which Pansies must take a first rank, that the greater proportion of spring flowers may consist of Perennials and hardy bulbs, unaided by anything requiring to be raised from seed, except a very few. The most hardy Perennials proper afford sufficient shades of colour to make the flower-garden very beautiful in localities where there is nothing extraordinary in either the soil or climate. Some of the Annuals are, however, so hardy and so beautiful—such, for instance, as the Forget-me-not—that they need never be dispensed with on the score of uncertainty.

As there are but few Biennials that flower sufficiently early to make them suitable for spring gardening, I will not treat of them separately, but will class them along with Perennials.

Annuals most suitable for Beds in the Spring Flower-Garden.

		Ft.	Colour.	Time to Sow.
**	<i>Alyssum maritimum</i> ,	1	White.	Middle of August.
*	<i>Bartonia aurea</i> ,	1½	Orange.	Do.
*	<i>Calandrinia speciosa</i> ,	1	Rose.	End of August.
**	<i>Calandrinia umbellata</i> ,	1	Crimson.	Do.
**	<i>Candytuft</i> —white, purple, and crimson,	1	..	Middle of August.
***	<i>Collinsia alba</i> ,	1	White.	End of August.
***	<i>Collinsia bicolor</i> ,	1	Purple & white.	Do.
***	<i>Collinsia grandiflora</i> ,	1	Purple.	Do.
**	<i>Collinsia verna</i> ,	1	Blue and white.	Do.
*	<i>Erysimum Peroffskianum</i> ,	1½	Yellow.	Do.
*	<i>Eschscholtzia californica</i> ,	1	Yellow.	Beginning of July.
*	<i>Eschscholtzia crocea</i> ,	1	Orange.	Do.
*	<i>Eutoca viscidia</i> ,	1	Blue.	Middle of August.
*	<i>Gypsophila elegans</i> ,	½	Pink.	Do.
***	<i>Lesthenia californica</i> ,	1	Yellow.	End of August.
***	<i>Limnanthes Douglassii</i> ,	½	Straw colour.	{ Do., or early in September.
	<i>Limnanthes sulphurea odorata</i> ,	½	Yellow.	Do.
**	<i>Lupinus alba</i> ,	2	White.	Middle of September.
**	<i>Lupinus nanus</i> ,	2	Blue.	Do.
***	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i> ,	1	Blue.	Middle of June.
***	<i>Myosotis arvensis alba</i> ,	1	White.	Do.
*	<i>Myosotis dissitiflora</i> ,	1	Azure blue.	Do.
**	<i>Nemophila atomaria</i> ,	2	White spotted.	End of August.
***	<i>Nemophila insignis</i> ,	2	Blue.	Do.
***	<i>Saponaria calabrica</i> ,	2	Rose.	Middle of August.
***	<i>Saponaria calabrica alba</i> ,	2	White.	Do.
***	<i>Silene pendula</i> ,	1	Pink.	Middle or end of July.
	<i>Silene pendula alba</i> ,	1	White.	Do.
	<i>Silene pendula flore-pleno</i>, . . . .	..	..	..
**	Venus's Looking-glass,	1	{ Blue, yellow, and white. }	End of August.
*	Virginian Stock, red and white,	1	..	Do.

The whole of these are effective for beds, lines, and edgings, but some are much superior to others, and their order of merit is shown by the asterisks affixed to each : *good, **better, ***best. Where the garden to be decorated is of medium or only small size, the best only are to be recommended ; but the whole, as well as those marked for autumn sowing in a former list, are useful for mixed borders.

Hardy Perennials and Bulbous-rooted Plants.—The general remarks which have already been made on this class of plants as applied to their growth as mixed border plants, do not apply with sufficient minuteness to their management when grown in masses in beds and borders from which they require to be removed annually, to make way for summer and autumn flowering plants. Although their culture is happily so easy, and requires no expensive appliances, it is nevertheless necessary that at least each genus should be treated of separately, and the particular capabilities of some of the species and varieties pointed out. This I will now attempt to do in as condensed and simple a manner as I can, and hope that the veriest tyro may be able to see that a flower garden, border, or bed need not be destitute of floral beauty during the spring months.

Ajuga reptans rubra, 4 inches, crimson foliage—November to May.

A native of Britain, and a very effective plant all winter and spring ; and being a low-growing plant, covering the ground with a dense foliage of dark copper or almost crimson colour, it is most useful for groundworks, or for lines and edgings associated with plants that have yellow or white flowers or foliage, such as *Cerastiums* and golden *Arabis*. It thrives well in any ordinary garden soil. All attempts to produce flowers should be checked by removing them at once ; for, like most other plants, if allowed to bloom, the foliage is not so fine. When removed from the beds, it should, if possible, have a moist shady place allotted to it, as it likes moisture. It can be very rapidly increased as it creeps along the ground, and makes roots at every joint ; and every morsel with a root, if divided in June, makes a fine plant for autumn planting.

Alyssum compactum, 6 inches, yellow—April and May.

Alyssum gemonense, 1 foot, bright yellow—April, May, and June.

Alyssum saxatile, 9 inches, yellow—April and May.

Alyssum saxatile variegatum, 9 inches, yellow—April and May.

These are among the most beautiful and lasting yellow spring-flowering plants that can be grown, and the most easily

managed, requiring nothing peculiar in the way of soil. They are very tenacious of life, and consequently bear removal well. The same plants may be used for a number of years, but they are most vigorous when three to five years old from the cutting. Still, large old plants go a long way in covering the ground, as their longer limbs can be spread out and pegged. Cuttings taken in June and July, and put into light soil behind a south wall, and without any covering of glass, root freely. Short healthy cuttings from about the lower parts of the old plants, just pulled off with a heel, are the best. Make them firm in the ground, and give a watering immediately they are put in. *A. saxatile variegatum* and *A. compactum* grow more compact than *A. saxatile*; and they can be increased very easily by taking moderate-sized plants, that sit, so to speak, close on the ground, and splitting off each limb with a piece of root attached. Summer-struck plants make fine compact little plants for small beds, edgings, and lines, but do not flower quite so freely as older plants.

When they are removed from the beds, all the flower-stems should be removed; and if they attempt to flower early in autumn, the bloom should be removed, as their flowering at that season only tends to exhaust the plants. *A. saxatile variegatum* is chiefly useful for its variegated foliage; and to *A. argenteum*, which has a light-grey foliage, a similar remark applies. They, however, are effective enough as yellow flowering plants, but the light-green-leaved variety of *saxatile* is the strongest and best bloomer. They are also excellent rockwork and basket plants.

Adonis vernalis, 6 inches, yellow—March and April.

This is a lovely little spring favourite. Its flowers are of a clear yellow colour, about as large as a penny-piece. It thrives best in a loamy limestone soil, but succeeds very well in ordinary loamy soil. Its management as to propagation is so simple that little need be said about it, beyond that this is effected by dividing the tufts into as many pieces as can be had with roots, and planting in moderately rich soil, and watering for a while in dry weather, till they get hold. The division should take place as soon as the blooming season is over.

Anemone alpina, 18 inches, white—April and May.

Anemone apennina, 9 inches, blue—March and April.

Anemone coronaria, 9 to 12 inches, various—March to June.

Anemone nemorosa flore-pleno, 6 to 8 inches, white—March and April.

Anemone ranunculoides, 6 inches, yellow—April.

Anemone sylvestris, 1 foot, white—April and May.
Anemone vernalis (new), 6 inches, white—March and April.

Of all the diversified forms of floral beauty which can be used for adorning the garden in spring, few excel the *Anemone*. Its flowers, of the most brilliant and varied hues, and elegant foliage combined, render it a most useful plant for spring decoration. The hybrids and varieties of *A. coronaria* are numerous and beautiful, embracing self-colours of brilliant scarlet, rose, blue, purple, violet, &c., as well as spotted and striped varieties without number. The self-colours are most effective in groups and lines, and all are beautiful for mixed borders. The double varieties, though larger, are of course more expensive to buy, and do not last quite so long in bloom as the single varieties; but they are so exceedingly beautiful, that no garden should be without them where spring flowers are required. But let us even take *A. apennina* (the Mountain Anemone) with its vivid blue flowers, almost as big as a crown-piece, and which sometimes flowers so early that we have it forming a carpet of blue simultaneously with the Crocus and the Snowdrop, and so hardy that it can be planted anywhere, although it and *A. nemorosa* likewise do best in a shady place, where the roots can remain undisturbed. I believe there are some beautiful new ones besides *A. vernalis*, such as *A. palmata*, with deep golden flowers; but I have not seen them, and cannot speak of their merits. *A. hortensis* might be supplemented. It has large flowers, with narrower and more numerous petals than the varieties of *A. coronaria*. *A. sylvestris* and *alpina* are well adapted for mixed borders.

The best soil for the *Anemone* is a deep sandy loam, well pulverised and manured with rotten cow or horse manure. For early spring flowering, the tubers should be planted in October; and for flowering late in spring and early summer, February or March is soon enough. We have a great dislike to the system of so thoroughly drying the roots as is the case when they are purchased, and would recommend their being laid in moderately moist sand for a time, or till they begin to move, before finally planting them; because, if put into the ground and wet weather occur, they rot off in large quantities after being so dry. In planting them, the simplest way is to open drills with a hoe about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, placing a half-inch of fine sandy soil in the drill, then the roots, and then fill up with light sharp compost. To have good beds, they should be planted 6 inches by 4. The *Anemone* does not bear transplanting well;

and where it can be done, they should be left in the beds or borders, and only lifted occasionally and divided, if increase of tubers is desired. In cases, however, where the beds have to be filled for summer and autumn show, they must be lifted ; and when they cannot be removed with balls, and watered to keep them fresh for a time, it is best to leave them till they are pretty well ripened, and then lift them and not to dry them by any means, but to store them in light rather dry soil till required for planting in October again.

I have frequently raised quantities from seed, and this is a good way of increasing stock rapidly. The seed should be gathered when dry, and sown, immediately it is gathered, in light rich soil, covering about half an inch deep, and shading with a mat or evergreen boughs till the young plants appear, many of which will flower the following year ; so that by this means, and division of the roots, stock can be quickly worked up.

Arabis albida, 9 inches, white—February to May.

Arabis albida variegata, 9 inches, variegated foliage—February to May.

Arabis lucida variegata, 6 inches, golden foliage—February to May.

Arabis mollis, 9 inches, white—February to May.

Arabis mollis variegata, 9 inches, white—February to May.

Whether we regard the *Arabis* for their very early and profuse show of white flowers, or for the lovely foliage of the variegated sorts, they must be looked upon as indispensable in spring decoration, and they are as suitable for rockwork or the stump of an old tree as for the richest borders. Indeed, the variegation of the foliage is not improved by richness of soil, but the reverse. Nothing can be more lovely than *A. lucida variegata* as an edging or long line when backed up with some dwarf blue plant. I have heard of one called *A. cœrulea*, a new species from Switzerland, with glossy green leaves and blue flowers, which, if it blooms in spring, as I apprehend it will, must become a favourite. They are all most useful plants for the amateur who has not the command of much glass, especially those with variegated foliage, as they are most effective in summer as edging plants, as well as in winter. The variegated sorts should not be allowed to bloom when grown for their foliage, as they never make fine foliage if allowed to exhaust themselves with a crop of bloom. When used for both summer and spring gardening, they require only to be lifted every third year or so. If left much longer, *A. mollis* and *A. albida* (which are very much alike) become rather large and clumsy, and in wet winters are apt to damp off.

Their propagation and culture are very simple: the old plants only require to be taken up and pulled to pieces, when each individual tuft, with about 3 inches of the stem to hold it well in the ground, will soon make a plant, if run out like box into lines in ordinary garden soil. If a little rich sandy soil is put about the necks of the pieces, all the better. Edgings that have stood all summer, and are too large for the winter arrangements, can be thus lifted and dibbled in thickly in October; they root through the course of the autumn, and make nice spring edgings. Varieties like *A. mollis variegata* are not so likely to suffer from damping in a severe or wet winter when thus divided as when left *en masse*. They stand any amount of cold. The best time to divide *A. lucida* is in May, unless it can be done early in autumn. It being so short-necked, the winter frosts are apt to throw it out before it gets hold. Divided in autumn, and covered with mats during frost, it roots well, and can be planted in March.

Aubrieta Campbellii, 6 inches, bluish purple—April to June.

Aubrieta deltoidea, 6 inches, bluish lilac—April to June.

Aubrieta deltoidea grandiflora, 6 inches, bluish lilac—April to June.

Aubrieta Mooreana, 4 inches, purple—March to June.

Aubrieta purpurea variegata, 4 inches, purple—April to June.

These are amongst the neatest and prettiest dense dwarf-growing spring flowers that can be used, especially in dry gravelly soil, which they will cover with a dense carpet of foliage and flower for two or three months. *A. Campbellii*, particularly, is of a very bright and pleasing colour. *A. purpurea variegata* is also a remarkably pretty plant, especially for covering a dry bank, where its variegated foliage and purple flowers are seen in beautiful contrast. They are all very hardy, and can be as easily increased as the *Arabis*, and in the same way. They are more spreading, and often root on the ground. *A. deltoidea grandiflora* is excellent for planting on rockwork, where it grows into dense sheets of blossom.

Bellis perennis (*Daisy*), 6 inches, various—February to June.

Bellis perennis, double pink, 6 inches.

Bellis perennis, double red, 6 inches.

Bellis perennis, double white, 6 inches.

Bellis perennis aucubæfolia, golden var. foliage, with crimson flowers.

Bellis perennis prolifera, 6 inches.

These varieties of the common double Daisy are of great service in the spring garden. Then there are those varieties known as Pink Beauty, Rob Roy Crimson, and White Globe—all well worth growing. For small beds, and especially for

long lines and edgings, they are, from their compact even growth and wondrous powers of dense and long-sustained bloom, unique. They are the most easily managed plants imaginable, as they will grow in any soil, bear transplanting remarkably well, and are capable of being increased with great rapidity. The double white and double red are the most telling varieties when viewed from a distance: for although the golden-leaved variety is exquisitely beautiful in spring, winter, and autumn, it does not bloom so freely as the plain-leaved ones; but when seen close at hand, it is a charming plant. Like all other fine-foliaged plants, when grown expressly for its foliage, it will be finer if the blooms are picked off; but we are very partial to it when allowed to flower.

To speak of the cultivation of Daisies may be considered superfluous: they will not puzzle even the greatest tyro. They will grow in dry soil, but will yield finer foliage, and blooms too, and for a longer time, in well-enriched soil. They should be planted thickly, whether in rows or in beds, so as to form a mass. They are increased by dividing them after the blooming season; and for the summer the place where they are planted should be rather shaded, especially for the variegated sort. When it is required to get up stock quickly, they should be divided in spring, and planted on light rich soil. Every morsel that can be had with roots, if kept well watered in dry weather, will make a fine plant by midsummer, when they can, if necessary, be lifted and divided and planted again; and with the same treatment and a little shade, they will make fine plants for transplanting in October.

Bulbocodium vernum, 6 inches, dark purple—March.

Bulbocodium vernum foliis striatis, 6 inches, striped leaves—March.

This is a very pretty crocus-looking bulbous-rooted plant, requiring very much the same treatment as the Crocus. It should be planted near to the edge of beds and borders, so that the summer plants can be put in without disturbing it, as it increases and altogether does best when allowed to remain undisturbed. The striped-leaved variety is nothing extra as a foliaged plant, but it is pretty, and worth growing as a variety.

Cardamine pratensis flore-pleno, 12 in., pale purple—March and April.

Cardamine trifolia, 9 inches, white—March and April.

The first named of these is a double variety of a pretty British plant (Cuckoo Flower or Lady's Smock), which grows in moist meadows and watery places. Its corymbs of pale

purple are very pretty. *C. trifolia* is also a lively plant, with dark-green foliage and heads of snow-white blossoms. They are both very easily managed plants, and can be increased very rapidly by dividing and re-dividing, as recommended for the Daisy. Being partial to moisture, they should be placed behind a north wall for the summer, and kept moist, especially if divided for propagation. They should be thickly planted to produce a mass. A rather retentive loam suits them best; but they thrive in ordinary garden soil, well manured.

Cerastium Biebersteinii, silvery grey.

Cerastium tomentosum (Snow-in-Summer), silvery grey.

So popular is *Cerastium*, that it would be difficult to find a garden without it; and where absent, there is a great blank. For groundworks, for panelling, and for dotting with other plants, it is superb; while for edgings and long lines it has no rival as a dwarf, dense, effective, and easily managed plant. If planted afresh every spring in the way recommended for summer gardening, and kept nicely trimmed, it remains effective and close in the nap the whole winter; and where a sheet of white blossom is required in May, there are not many things to surpass this simple plant. It may frequently, however, become necessary to move it along with the autumn-flowering fraternity; and in that case I would recommend a quantity of it to be struck in August, by being simply torn from the summer stock, which frequently wants trimming, and run out into lines like box behind a north wall, in light rich soil. By the middle of October it is in fine order for transplanting, and in spring makes far fresher lines and masses than old stock that has been moved in autumn. Of the two named, I like *C. tomentosum* the best, but both are good; and associated with blue, purple, and dark foliaged plants, they are very effective; or with yellows or oranges, as harmonies, they are very sweet. When planted as groundworks for panels of blue and purple Pansies, and edged with red Daisies, they are also most effective.

Centaurea acanthafolia, 12 to 18 inches, lovely silvery foliage.

Centaurea ragusina, 12 to 18 inches, lovely silvery foliage.

Centaurea ragusina compacta, 9 to 13 inches, silvery foliage.

For the propagation and general treatment of these fine plants, see Summer and Autumn Flower-gardening. As panel plants, or for the centre of baskets, they are most effective, and so hardy that they can be put out with all safety in most localities after the end of March if previously well hardened

off. For summer decoration, they are much better planted in April; and in order to make the same plants available for spring and summer work, it is best to plunge them in their pots, so that in the beginning of June they can be moved about as required, without suffering from transplanting—a process of which they are not over fond, having very easily injured roots. A few scores of these plants, judiciously disposed in the parterre, are very effective; and for panels in blue or purple, nothing can be better.

Cheiranthus alpinus, 4 to 6 inches, bright yellow—March to June.
Cheiranthus Cheirii, 12 to 18 inches, various—April to June.
Cheiranthus Cheirii, double, purple—April to June.
Cheiranthus Cheirii, double, red—April to June.
Cheiranthus Cheirii, double, yellow—April to June.
Cheiranthus Marshallii, 9 inches, orange yellow—April to June.
Cheiranthus ochroleucus, 12 inches, pale yellow—April to June.

The name Wallflower is suggestive of delightful perfume, as indeed are many names that are famous for gay flowers in spring. Wallflowers are both effective to the eye and most pleasing to the sense of smell. They are old-fashioned flowers, upon which we have known the amateur to bestow great attention, particularly the doubles, which are by some considered difficult to strike. A number of years ago we gave a good deal of attention to these and Sweet-William, and had a fine collection; but few are very effective for massing, for which distinctness of colour is a requisite. As is the case with nearly all flowers, single varieties are most telling for bedding, and there are now very fine strains of them to be had; for although the doubles are in themselves exceedingly beautiful, the singles are more effective, and, moreover, more sweet.

What can be better as a yellow-flowering plant than the yellow single variety of the common Wallflower or *C. Marshallii*? *C. alpinus* is very effective too; and being so dwarf, it can be used for small beds, scroll borders, and edgings. There are also very dwarf pure yellow varieties, such as Belvoir Castle Yellow, and Tom Thumb—which comes quite true from seed—and are deliciously fragrant.

Having already made some remarks on the culture of Biennials—Wallflowers included—it is not necessary here to say much about raising the single varieties. The process is so simple that few can fail to raise them in quantity. The chief point in the culture of Biennials is to sow early, and transplant into nursery rows before the final planting, as is described under the heads of Biennials, to which the reader can refer.

If fine bushy plants are expected before the middle or end of October, the seed should be sown not later than the middle of May; the seedlings transplanted before they become crowded and drawn; and after they have begun to grow in the nursery rows, go over them and top them. This has the effect of causing them to be more compact and dwarf, and is another reason for sowing early. The propagation of the double varieties must of course be effected by cuttings. The error into which many fall who cultivate these as border flowers is, that they delay the putting in of the cuttings till too late; and as they take a long time in rooting, the season is over before the young plants can be established; and on selecting the cuttings a good deal depends. The young shoots should be selected not later than the middle of May, if good plants are to be had the first year. A firm short cutting, not wiry and hard, but moderately firm, should be pulled from the parent plant, not cut. The heel should then be cut smooth with the knife and a few of the leaves removed, and it is ready for insertion. I am aware that where a large stock is required, longer cuttings must not be passed by: they must be shortened, so that the portion of the stem inserted in the ground should be moderately firm. In putting in these two sorts of cuttings they should be classed, as they sometimes do not strike simultaneously. To strike with the greatest success, a raised bed of soil should be formed, and 6 inches of equal proportions of light soil—loam if possible—and leaf-mould and sand, sifted finely and beat firmly over the top. Hand-glasses or a frame is a great advantage, where such means can be commanded; but they are not indispensable, for the cuttings will strike without them, though much more apt to suffer before they begin to callous over. The cuttings should then be firmly dibbled in about 2 inches apart, be well watered, and allowed to dry before the glass is put on. A shady place, such as behind a wall, where they will not require to be shaded by mats, is best. In the day-time, when the weather is hot and sunny, keep the glasses closely on, but put on a little air at night. When they have calloused, they will begin to grow, and soon root, when they should be transplanted into well-manured and rather sandy soil. In this way the whole of the single varieties can also be increased, including *C. Marshallii* and *C. ochroleucus*. We have seen cottagers strike the double varieties in large flower-pots filled half full of road-grit and soil mixed together, placing the pot in a shady window or other place, and covering its mouth sometimes with a pane of glass.

The Wallflower, though it will grow on the top of an old wall, does best in a rather rich, dry, loamy soil, but is not by any means fastidious. When planted finally, they should be moved with balls, which is more easily done when they are transplanted in the seedling state than when left in the seedling bed till autumn.

Corydalis nobilis, 16 inches, yellow—April and May.

Corydalis tuberosa, 8 inches, purple—March and April.

These two plants, though they do not make a very conspicuous show, are very elegant, taken as a whole. *C. nobilis* is a very effective plant for breaking up masses of colour, when such is produced by dwarf and more formal plants; and this being a style in which I am interested, I look upon this, among some others, as effective for planting in single specimens. *C. tuberosa* might be used as a graceful edging plant. Both these *Corydalis* are of easy culture, and lift better than most tuberous-rooted plants with balls. To increase them, the roots only need to be divided; and they can also be increased by cuttings very much in the same way as *Dielytra*.

Crocus, Cloth of Gold, 4 inches, yellow—February to April.

Crocus, Cloth of Silver, 4 inches, white, purple stripes.

Crocus, common blue, 4 inches, blue.

Crocus, common yellow, 4 inches, yellow.

Crocus, David Rizzio, 4 inches, purple.

Crocus, Gold-finder, 4 inches, white.

Crocus, Ne plus ultra, 4 inches, violet, edged with white.

Crocus, Queen Victoria, 4 inches, white.

Crocus, Sir John Franklin, 4 inches, purple.

And many other varieties. .

Among those early flowers which are the first promises of Flora's gifts, the *Crocus*, as an ornament of the spring garden, is a general favourite, being neat and trim in habit, delicate in its shades of colour, cheap, and easy of culture. Another feature which very strongly recommends it is its suitableness for planting close to the edges of beds and borders, where it will remain for years, and not interfere with the preparation of the beds for the summer flowers. It is also singularly well adapted for intricate planting in scrolls and designs in small borders, and as patches in mixed borders; and for planting among grass, to take up the waning, simple beauty of the Snowdrop, it is well adapted. The varieties which are now enumerated in catalogues are, like many other things, endless; but, as in the case of most other plants for groups and lines, distinct self-colours are most effective, and the common varieties named above are the most useful and cheap. Those who wish

for striped and tipped varieties can become acquainted with them by consulting a bulb catalogue.

The culture of this charming little plant is exceedingly simple. When to be purchased and planted for the first time, I would recommend beginners, and especially where the soil is rather retentive than otherwise, to purchase and plant early—not later than the end of October. At the same time they can be planted in light dry soils all through the winter; but it is not desirable to be later than the middle of November, even under the most favourable circumstances. As for most other bulbs, a sandy loam, well enriched with rotten manure, is the best. The ground should be broken up as finely as possible; and in planting edgings and lines, the best way is to draw a drill widely, placing a double row of bulbs about a couple of inches apart in width in the bottom of the drill, and about 3 inches apart lengthwise, covering the bulbs to the depth of 4 inches. Should the ground be heavy, it is desirable to put a little fine sandy soil, or even sand itself, under the bulbs, and to fill up the drill entirely with light rich soil. For groups in mixed borders, six or eight bulbs should be planted, about 2 inches apart—each group being of the same variety, and the varieties planted time about as their colour suggests. They may remain undisturbed from four to five years, during which time they will multiply and improve. When lifted with the view of increasing them or regulating them, this should be done while the leaves are still green. The soil clings nicely to them, and they can be divided into patches and planted immediately, putting a little rich sandy soil about their roots; and if well watered, they will scarcely suffer. Indeed I have frequently transplanted Snowdrops, Crocuses, and Daffodils when in full bloom, and divided them, without their suffering in the least. Mice are ravenously fond of Crocus bulbs, and must be vigilantly watched in the case of fresh plantations, especially when they have been covered with fresh soil. A few mice will soon play havoc with a great extent of bulbs, so that the little pests must be carefully watched and destroyed in the usual way, by trapping and poisoning.

Cyclamen Coum, 3 inches, red—January and April.

Cyclamen Coum vernum, 3 inches, red, with var. fol.—Jan. and April.

Cyclamen hederæfolium, 3 inches, rosy pink—January and April.

Cyclamen ibericum, rose and white—March and April.

It would be difficult to point to any plant which combines so much tiny gracefulness and sparkling beauty in so condensed a

form as is furnished by the beautiful little leaves and bright flowers of these plants ; and, flowering with the first return of spring, they should have a place in every spring garden. Of course they are so small that they are not adapted for extensive beds or borders ; but for putting round the margins of small beds or vases that are placed below the eye, where they can be inspected, they are very interesting. They thrive best in dry gritty soil, and rather shady situations than otherwise. When removed from their blooming positions, they should either be potted or placed in light soil, where heavy rains can be warded off them while at rest ; or where this cannot be accomplished, they can be kept in pots, placed in cold frames till the severity of winter is over, and then plunged in their pots where they are required to bloom. The whole of the Cyclamens seed freely, and are remarkably easily raised in this way. The seed should be sown, when ripe, in light sandy soil, well enriched with leaf-mould. When fit to handle, they may be planted either in boxes or in a piece of prepared soil, where, with a couple of years' growth, they make flowering bulbs.

Dactylis glomerata variegata (variegated Cock's-foot Grass).

This summer favourite can also be made available for dwarf edgings in spring ; for in March, April, and May, in its fresh growing state, it is more delicate and chaste-looking than at any other period. The summer plants should be lifted, and divided as soon in autumn as arrangements for spring gardening can commence. By dividing it, and laying it in like a Box edging, where it is wanted for the spring, it gets hold before the severe weather sets in, and commences to grow in spring, in time to look beautifully fresh and effective with the *élite* of the garden. It will attain to the height of 7 or 8 inches by the middle of May in ordinary springs, and in that state is most graceful ; and if arranged so as to remain for summer, the same plants will do without any further trouble ; but if to be shifted, it moves perfectly well with balls in May and June. In planting it in autumn, it will thrive all the better if a little rich free soil be laid to its roots ; and it should be rather deep than otherwise, and made firm in the soil.

Dielytra eximia, 1 to 1½ foot, reddish purple—May.

Dielytra spectabilis, 24 inches, rose and yellow—April and May.

Dielytra spectabilis, 24 inches, white and yellow—April and May.

Except in early localities and favourable seasons, the blooming of these plants cannot be counted on till the beginning of May.

But as they are plants of great beauty of foliage, I enumerate them as suitable for a panel or relieving plant, in sheltered positions. They are perfectly hardy, bear transplanting well, and will grow in almost any soil. Their propagation is most easily effected by division; but they strike very freely from cuttings when in a growing state in spring. The cuttings should be placed in a gentle heat, potted off when rooted, and planted out in May, when well hardened off. They are charming mixed border plants. There is a variety called *D. cucullaria*, said to be very beautiful, but I have not seen it.

Dodecatheon elegans (American Cowslip), 12 inches, rose and lilac—May and June.

Dodecatheon integrifolium, 9 inches, rosy crimson—April and June.

Dodecatheon Meadia, 9 inches, purple and lilac—April and June.

Dodecatheon Meadia album, 9 inches, white—April and June.

Besides these, there is one called *D. Jeffreyanum*, said to be very beautiful, but I have never seen it; and it is yet, I believe, scarce. The varieties named, especially *D. Meadia* and *D. elegans*, are pretty plants both for beds and lines. They multiply rapidly, and can be extended by dividing them. They are generally considered not to do well except in a peaty soil; but the finest lot of them that ever I saw was grown in very sandy soil, well enriched with rotten leaves; and they are often found to thrive well in mixed borders where the soil is light and porous. When removed from the beds, they should be lifted with as much mould as possible attached to them, and laid in light soil into which a good proportion of leaf-mould should be mixed, where peat cannot be had; and in the heat of summer they should have a mulching of half-decayed leaves or manure spread over them, to keep them in a medium state of moisture.

Eranthis hyemalis (Winter Aconite), 4 inches, yellow—Jan. and Feb.

This little yellow harbinger competes with the Snowdrop for earliness. It is remarkably showy, producing its bright yellow circlets of blossom profusely, oftentimes among frost and snow. It is one of those plants which, like the Crocus and Snowdrop, can be planted close to the edges of beds, and left all through the summer, in which way it thrives much better than when removed every year. It is not, however, a plant that I should recommend to be much used for beds, as its beauty is over so early. Its proper place is in the mixed border or front of the shrubbery border, where it can be left undisturbed without any inconvenience. It makes strong roots, and it is easily increased

by breaking them up into as many pieces as there are crowns to be found on them. The end of May or beginning of June is a good time to divide it, when it should be planted in rows, and treated to some light sandy soil about its roots.

Erythronium americanum, yellow—March and April.

Erythronium dens-canis (Dog's-tooth Violet), 6 inches, March and April.

Erythronium dens-canis album, white—March and April.

Erythronium dens-canis purpureum, purple—March and April.

Erythronium dens-canis roseum, rose—March and April.

Beautiful and very interesting plants, with pretty flowers and spotted leaves, rendering them very distinct and ornamental spring flowers; and being dwarf and compact in growth, they are very useful for small beds and edgings. Like the Dodecatheon, they thrive well in peat, or any light sandy soil well enriched with rotten leaves. If the soil be heavy, a quantity of road-grit or coarse sand, and a large proportion of leaf-mould, should be mixed in with it; and in planting, a little sand should be put about the bulbs, to prevent decay from excess of water. The two can be planted close to the edges of beds, and allowed to remain all summer like the Crocus; and if so left, they increase with greater certainty than when frequently removed. They can be purchased cheaply, and should be planted as early in October as the beds can be got ready for them. Planted rather thickly in single rows, they make neat little edgings the first season; and even when the flowers are past, the leaves are sufficiently pretty to be effective as an edging till they begin to decay. There is an improvement on *E. purpureum* called major, but I am not acquainted with it. The flowers are said to be larger and more effective.

Euonymus aurea variegatus, golden-leaved.

Euonymus radicans variegatus, silver-foliaged shrubby plant.

These are among the most lovely variegated, hardy, permanent edging plants in cultivation. They almost rival for effect the variegated Pelargonium, and can be made available for winter, spring, and summer. They bear trimming to keep them compact and neat, which, however, they naturally are. When sufficient stock can be had of them, they cannot fail to take a high position. They are not particular as to soil, thriving well in any ordinary garden soil well enriched with rotten leaves; and are increased from cuttings in summer, under hand-glasses, in a mixture of finely-sifted leaf-mould and sand in about equal proportions. Firm cuttings, about

3 or 4 inches long, are best. They can also be struck in heat in spring.

- Fritillaria Crown upon Crown, 2 feet, red—April to June.
Fritillaria imperialis (Crown Imperial), 3½ feet, red—April and May.
Fritillaria imperialis foliis aureis, 3½ feet, red—April and May.
Fritillaria imperialis, silver-striped, 3 feet, red—April and May.
Fritillaria latifolia, many varieties, 1 foot—April to June.
Fritillaria meleagris, 1½ foot, various—May and June.
Fritillaria meleagris nigricans, 1½ foot, purple and yellow—May and June.
Fritillaria persica, 2 feet, brown and purple—April to June.
Fritillaria præcox, 1 foot, white—April to June.
Fritillaria pudica, 6 inches, yellow—May.
Fritillaria recurva, 1 foot, reddish—April and May.

This flower is probably more stately and distinct in character than really beautiful. The tallest varieties are handsome and striking-looking plants, and the golden and silver foliated are very ornamental. For back lines, or in mixed borders, they are well worthy of attention; or planted at intervals among lower-growing plants in beds, they would be equally effective. They are all very hardy and easy to manage, increasing freely if left in the ground. Those in mixed borders, of course, can be left undisturbed for several years. They thrive well in rich sandy and deep soil. When purchased from the seedsmen, they should be planted not later than November; and each bulb, when put in the ground, should be surrounded with a handful of sand. They are not very good plants to move before their growth is completed, and, if possible, a little soil should be lifted with each bulb; and when laid in a shady place, they should be kept watered for a time. However, if planted in back lines and mixed borders, there will be less necessity for moving them often.

- Galanthus Elwesi (Snowdrop), 6 inches, white—January to March.
Galanthus nivalis, 6 inches, white—January to March.
Galanthus nivalis flore-pleno, 6 inches, white—January to March.
Galanthus plicatus, 6 inches, white—January to March.

This simple and elegant flower bursts upon the eye like “soothing strains upon the ear.” It leads the van of Flora’s treasures, and fills the mind with the hope of the bright procession that is to spring from the womb of the new-born year. The Snowdrop—who does not love it, and look upon it with a kindly eye, as it peers through the brown grass or cold soil, and seems to thrive best with the breath of spring congealed upon its slender form? We would advise all who have a lawn, ever so small, or grassy bank, to plant some Snowdrops; and the edges of plantations, pleasure-grounds, or walks, can also be made cheerful with this elegant flower. They may be

planted in stars, crests, and numerous designs, by making holes 4 inches deep with a dibber, and dropping in a bulb or two. In this way they flourish remarkably; and as the leaves get pretty well matured before mowing commences, they remain safe till another year. Few plants remove better; and when planted as edgings or lines, they can be lifted, immediately they are done blooming, with balls, and be put in any out-of-the-way corner to mature themselves. They should be planted in October when thus removed; but if put very near the edges of beds, they may be allowed to remain for a good many years without being moved. They are so hardy and well-doing, that they can be transplanted with success any time before they have fully expanded their flowers. The common single is the most effective. *G. plicatus* is very dwarf.

Gentiana acaulis, 6 inches, blue—April to June.

Gentiana verna, 4 inches, blue—April and May.

Few plants are more charming than these—the common garden and spring Gentianella. They form dense tufts of dwarf foliage, studded over with brilliant blue flowers. *G. acaulis* thrives luxuriantly in rich loamy soil: indeed, the finest lot of it we ever saw was growing on a tenacious loam approaching to clay. It, however, must be freely exposed to the sun to bloom well; and both varieties are beautiful plants for planting on moist places sloping to the sun. *G. verna* will grow most freely on a rich loam where there is no stagnant water, but, at the same time, plenty of moisture and depth of soil. Both will, however, do very well in the majority of garden soils that are not very hot and scorching. Neither of them will flower very freely if removed every year; and as they are excellent edging plants, it is well, if possible, to leave them in compact lines round the outer edges of the beds all summer. If they are moved, it should be done immediately they have done flowering, and in patches, with balls to each patch; and when planted again in autumn, care should be taken to lift the roots entire. In order to do this, it is best to plant them in rather fibry loam and leaf-mould, in which they will root freely, and which adheres well to the roots in autumn. In summer especially, *G. verna* should be well watered after being planted in the reserve ground. They are easily increased by division.

Hepatica triloba, 6 inches, various—February to April.

Hepatica triloba, double and single blue.

Hepatica triloba, double and single mauve.

Hepatica triloba, double and single pink.
Hepatica triloba, double and single red.
Hepatica triloba, single white.

The Hepaticas are very charming spring flowers, and, on account of their thriving and blooming on shady borders, where they never get any sun, are valuable for such positions. They are, moreover, among the very best plants we have for moving yearly with impunity, as they are so easily lifted with balls. They thrive best in a peaty soil, but in this respect are not particular, and generally do well in any garden soil that is free and moderately rich; and they will bloom and look very beautiful in the partial shade of shrubs or trees, while at the same time they bloom well, but not so long, in open places. They are very easily increased by division, which should be done as early after they are done blooming as possible. When divided and planted, a little fresh soil, principally leaf-mould, or peat and sand, should be put to the roots of each patch, to start them away freely. If dry weather at the time, they should be watered, and their nursery beds should be in the shade. They are most serviceable for edgings and the fronts of mixed borders. There is one called *H. angulosa*, which I have not seen: said to be very fine—deep blue, with very large flowers.

Helleborus abchasicus (Christmas Rose), 1½ foot, crimson—February to April.
Helleborus colchicus, 1½ foot, red—February and March.
Helleborus niger, 12 inches, pink—January to March.
Helleborus olympicus, 15 inches, greenish white—March to May.

This hardy and strong-growing genus of plants, which bloom sometimes in the depth of winter, is an old and well-known one. There have recently been raised some very showy and distinct hybrids, which cannot fail to be much grown when more numerous and better known. Among these are—Gretchen Heinemann, James Atkins, reds; of lighter hybrids, there are C. Benary and Herr Leichtlin. Few plants are more easily cultivated. They bear moving at any time; and their blooming season being very early, they can be moved to make way for later spring-flowering plants. They are easily multiplied by division.

Hyacinths.

This popular favourite is the chief of all the bulbs available for spring. The cheap rate at which it can now be purchased, and the ease with which it can be well if not superbly cultivated, places it within the reach of all who possess a garden.

It is scarcely possible to estimate too highly the qualities of the Hyacinth as a spring flower. Whether as regards delicacy of colour or sweetness of perfume, it has few equals.

The soil best suited for growing it well, is a rich, deep, light, loamy one, in which water cannot stagnate. Any ordinary garden soil that is not tenacious and wet, if deeply dug and well manured with decayed leaf-mould, or, what is better, old cow-manure, will grow the Hyacinth well. To bring its blooms to first-rate excellence, it requires a quantity of fresh loam, rotten manure, and sand mixed in; but, unless in very exceptional cases, such luxuries cannot be largely indulged in. In preparing a bed in the ordinary way for Hyacinths, trench it to the depth of 18 inches, putting in either of the manures named above, and thoroughly pulverise the soil in the process. Then mix it with the surface, and put a slight dressing of the same; and having levelled the bed, it is ready for the bulbs. If an early display is required, they should be planted immediately the beds can be got ready, after the autumn flowers are removed; but for later blooming, November is early enough to plant.

The soil should not have a foot set on it after it has been prepared, and consequently a board should be used to stand upon when the beds are too large to be planted without going on them. To produce an effective bed of Hyacinths alone, the bulbs should be planted not wider apart than 9 inches; but when the surface of the beds is to be carpeted over with any other low-growing plant, the bulbs may be put in at 12 inches apart, with very good effect. The crowns of the bulbs should be 3 to 4 inches, according to the size of the various kinds, beneath the surface of the bed, when all is levelled up and finished. Where the soil is at all inclined to be heavy, it is a good plan to surround each bulb with a handful of sand or road-grit. In severe winters it is advisable to cover the surface of the beds with some loose material, such as fern or long stable-manure. The covering should be removed as the shoots come through the ground. Unless they can be left in the beds undisturbed to mature their growth, it is useless to plant the bulbs again, with the hope of a good display from them a second year. Indeed, varieties suitable for outdoor decoration can now be purchased so cheap, that it is scarcely worth the trouble to save the bulbs. If when in bloom they can be covered from wet and late frosts, they will remain in beauty much longer than when exposed to all weathers. In planting

a bed of Hyacinths, we have a strong objection to mixing up a great variety of sorts in one bed, and think the effect produced by planting a centre of one sort with a band of another much finer. And a very pretty effect is produced by covering the surface of the soil between them with nice green moss; or the surface of the bed, where wide planting is practised, can be planted with some of the dwarfer-growing annuals; or with Cerastium, or any other low-growing plant, a very effective dotted bed can be produced.

Iberis corifolia (Candytuft), 6 inches, white—March to May.

Iberis correæfolia, 9 inches, white—May and June.

Iberis gibraltarica, 12 inches, white—March to May.

Iberis saxatilis, 9 inches, white—March to May.

Iberis sempervirens, 9 inches, white—March to May.

These are probably the most effective white-flowering perennials that can be enumerated for early flowering. They are more of a shrubby character than ordinary perennials, and are very useful either for rockwork, baskets, or beds, and last a long time in bloom. They are, like the Alyssum, easily transplanted with impunity; and the same plants can be used for years in succession. When removed from the beds in early summer, they should be heeled carefully in behind a wall, where the mid-day sun cannot reach them, and be watered if the weather is dry. They can be propagated in the same manner as recommended for Alyssum; but if hand-glasses or frames can be spared for them, all the better. The young plants are very neat as edging and line plants the first year after they are struck. The cuttings should be put in early, and immediately they are well rooted, planted into free rich soil, in which they make nice young plants before October.

Iris foetidissima foliis variegatis, 2 feet, striped foliage.

Iris histrio, 15 to 18 inches, purple—February and March.

Iris persica, 6 inches, various—April and May.

Iris pumila, 9 inches, violet—April and May.

Iris reticulata, 6 inches, purple—March and April.

Iris Susiana, 2 feet, brown, netted with dark lines—April and May.

The Iris is a beautiful genus of plants, but few of them bloom sufficiently early to mingle with the early spring flowers. *I. persica* is the earliest, and some of its varieties are very beautiful. The striped-foliaged one named above is a very ornamental plant, admirably adapted for back lines in ribbon borders, panels, and centres of large beds. It is tuberous-rooted, and bears transplanting very well; only a ball of soil should be preserved with it when removed and it should be

planted in light rich soil for the summer. It is easily increased by division. *I. Susiana* is a very distinct and remarkable-looking kind, and as it blooms early, would make a good plant for mixed borders and centres. It is also a tuberous-rooted variety, and increases by division. *I. persica*, being dwarf, is useful for edgings, and thrives best if the bulbs are left undisturbed for several years. *I. pumila* is a very pleasing colour and useful plant, easily increased by division. *I. reticulata* is a most unique little plant, and the wonder is that it is not more grown and attended to. It multiplies by increasing the numbers of its tubers.

Muscari botryoides (Grape Hyacinth), 9 inches, blue—March and April.

Muscari botryoides album, 9 inches, white—March and April.

Muscari monstrosum, 12 inches, blue—April and May.

Muscari moschatum, 9 inches, blue and yellow—April and May.

Muscari plumosum violaceum, 12 inches, violet blue—April and May.

There is a great variety of this well-known plant; and though all are neat and beautiful, the above are the best. They are not, however, very good plants for beds, as they require staking, especially *M. monstrosum*, or it will be laid down with wet, as the heads of bloom hold the moisture in wet weather and become top-heavy. The best place for them in all respects is the mixed border, where they can remain undisturbed for years; for if lifted frequently, they do not thrive well. They will grow well in almost any soil.

Myosotis dissitiflora, 12 inches, blue—March and April.

This beautiful species of Forget-me-not should be grown wherever very early flowers are an object. It sometimes flowers with the Snowdrop and Winter Aconite. It has brighter and larger flowers than the wood Forget-me-not, *M. sylvatica*. Like most of the Myosotises, *M. dissitiflora* requires a moist situation; and provided the drainage is good, it does well with a good supply of water. When removed from the beds in summer, it should be planted in a moist shady place, and in dry weather well watered. It is increased by division.

Narcissus albus plenus odoratus, white—March and April.

Narcissus bicolor, 12 inches, yellow and white.

Narcissus biflorus, 12 inches, white and primrose.

Narcissus Bulbocodium, 6 inches, golden yellow.

Narcissus Campernelle, 12 inches, yellow.

Narcissus incomparabilis, 12 inches, white and orange.

Narcissus jonquilla (double), 12 inches, yellow.

Narcissus jonquilla (single), 12 inches, yellow.

Narcissus juncifolius, 6 inches, yellow.

- Narcissus moschatus*, 6 inches, creamy white.
Narcissus odorus, 12 inches, yellow.
Narcissus Orange Phoenix, 12 inches, orange and cream.
Narcissus poeticus flore-pleno, 12 inches, white.
Narcissus pseudo-narcissus, 8 inches.
Narcissus Tazetta (Polyanthus narcissus), various—April and May.
Narcissus tenuifolius, 12 inches, golden yellow.
Narcissus Trumpet-major, 12 inches, deep yellow.

Those kinds known by the designation of Garden *Narcissus* are perfectly hardy, very showy, and some of them exceedingly fragrant; and all are plants strongly to be recommended for mixed borders. *N. poeticus* is particularly fragrant, and the same may be said of the Jonquil. *N. Bulbocodium* and *N. pseudo-narcissus*, being dwarf, are very appropriate for front lines or edgings, and for rockwork. *N. tenuifolius* is particularly rich in colour. The numbers of beautiful hybrids now becoming most fashionable are all charming spring flowers, and should be largely grown in every garden. The general treatment of the *Narcissus* is similar to that of the *Hyacinth*. When purchased from the nurserymen, they should be planted not later than the end of October. In mixed borders they do remarkably well, if allowed to remain undisturbed for several years. When used for beds, it is difficult to move them in time for the summer flowers, without their suffering from removal before they are fully ripe. It is, however, for mixed borders that we principally recommend them. The whole of the *Polyanthus narcissus* are exceedingly showy in borders, and, with the exception of the Roman variety, are suitable and very effective as border plants.

Omphalodes verna, 6 inches, blue—March and April.

This pretty little plant has large brilliant blue flowers resembling a Forget-me-not, but in loose spikes. It is a plant that thrives well in dry shallow soil, provided it has a good proportion of leaf-mould mixed in with it. But perhaps its most appropriate place is in the rockwork, where it can have shade in summer. When used for beds, it should be in a shady position if possible; and when removed during summer, it should be placed in the shade. It is increased by dividing it into pieces after it is done flowering, and planting in a mixture of equal proportions light loam and leaf-mould.

- Phlox frondosa*, 6 inches, white—April and May.
Phlox Nelsonii, 6 inches, pink—April and May.
Phlox reptans, 6 inches, dark rose—April and May.
Phlox subulata, 6 inches, pink—April and May.

These pretty dwarf Phloxes are well worthy of culture, being suitable either for small beds and baskets or edgings. They do in ordinary garden soil, and are increased by division.

- Primula amena, 8 inches, purple—April and May.
- Primula auricula, 4 to 6 inches, various—April and May.
- Primula auricula alpina, 4 to 6 inches, various—April and May.
- Primula elatior (Polyanthus), 6 to 15 inches, various—April and May.
- Primula vulgaris (acaulis) (Primrose), 6 inches—March to May.
- Primula vulgaris, single and double, crimson.
- Primula vulgaris, single and double, lilac.
- Primula vulgaris, single and double, pink.
- Primula vulgaris, single and double, purple.
- Primula vulgaris, single and double, white.
- Primula vulgaris, single and double, yellow.

The whole of these are very charming spring flowers, and being so easily managed, may be classed among the flowers of the million. As has already been observed regarding the comparative merits of double and single flowers, the single varieties of the Primrose are most effective for massing. The single purple Primrose is a most effective bedding plant; few can excel it in the same colour either among the spring or summer plants. *P. auricula* is what is generally known as the Dusty Miller, and, from the mealy appearance of its leaves, looks pretty and interesting anywhere. It is very dwarf, and well adapted for edgings or lines. Many of the Alpine species are very beautiful, but are still rather scarce and expensive to be had in quantity. The Primrose and Polyanthus should be grown extensively in heavy retentive soils, in which they thrive well, and continue much longer in bloom than on hot dry ones. All the varieties of both doubles and singles are very easily and rapidly increased by division. The early part of June is the best time to divide them. If necessary to increase stock quickly, they should be divided into as many pieces as there are crowns to each stool or plant, taking care to have a piece of root to each, if possible, although even rootless pieces can be used with success. The best place to plant them for the summer is behind a north wall where the sun never strikes them. They are natives of moist shady places, where the soil is generally heavy and tenacious. The beds for the young stock should be well manured with rotten cow-dung if it can be had. They will grow rapidly as soon as they get hold, and make nice plants for autumn planting. The single sorts can be easily increased from seed. The seeds should be saved, and sown separately on a moist shady border.

RANUNCULUS.—*Turban Varieties.*

Black Turban, dark scarlet.	Orange.
Carmine.	Roman, scarlet.
Crimson.	Scarlet Dutch.
Golden, bright yellow.	Spotted golden.
Grandiflora, crimson spotted.	Turban d'Or, scarlet and gold.
Hercules, white.	White.
Merveilleuse, yellow.	Yellow.

For effectiveness in beds and lines, the Turban varieties are much to be preferred to the Persian varieties, although for compactness and symmetry, and general individual beauty, the latter must be admitted to be unrivalled by any other spring-flowering plant. At the same time, for effect in a flower-garden, they fall short of the Turban varieties.

The time to plant them must be regulated by the time they are required to bloom. If required to bloom in April and May, the end of January or beginning of February is sufficiently early. To grow them to perfection, the soil requires to be good, rich, and loamy. Three or four inches of well-rotted manure should be trenched in to the depth of 18 inches; and unless the natural soil be good, the top spit should have some fresh loamy soil forked into it, along with a little more manure. Manure of a cool nature is the best suited for the Ranunculus, and therefore cow-dung is preferable. The surface of the bed should be well pulverised, and have the manure thoroughly mixed with it. The tubers should be planted 6 to 8 inches apart each way, and covered to the depth of 2 inches, being sure to place them firmly in the ground, with their claws downwards. It is a good plan to cover them with a little sand before levelling the soil over them. They require to be protected from severe frost; and to this end, let the bed be covered over with litter or half-decayed leaves, which of course must be removed as soon as the plants begin to come through the ground in spring. As they make their roots near the surface, they are more subject than almost any other plant to suffer from drought in the spring months; and careful attention in the way of watering is necessary, or their blooming season will be very short. When in bloom, an awning of canvas thrown over them when the sun is brightest, and during rains, will prolong their season, and their colour will be finer. As soon as the leaves become yellow, the roots should be taken up, dried, and stored in a dry airy place on shelves. If left in the ground to get much rain after the tops are ripe, they commence to make fresh roots; and after doing so, they are never so strong and fine the following season.

Santolina incana, 6 to 12 inches; silvery foliaged.

To have this lovely plant in perfection for spring, cuttings should be struck in heat the previous spring; and when well hardened off, planted in light rich soil, to grow throughout the summer. In this way it makes beautiful plants 4 to 6 inches in diameter, and close on the ground, and transplants well in autumn with balls, and forms very neat edgings the following spring and summer. To our mind, it is much the prettiest when in this young, fresh, and compact condition; moreover, plants at this age move much better in autumn than older ones.

Saxifraga granulata flore-pleno, 9 inches, white—March to May.

Saxifraga pyramidalis, 1 foot, white—April and May.

Saxifraga umbrosa, 1 inch, pink—April and May.

These three Saxifrages make most beautiful beds. *S. pyramidalis*, from the compact way in which it throws up its pyramid of flowers, is well adapted for lines, but it should always be staked, or it will not bear up against wind and rains; *S. granulata flore-pleno* makes a lovely bed or row; and *S. umbrosa* is useful for the wonderful amount of bloom that it produces: it is well suited for edgings to walks in shady places. In spring it produces its bloom, which, when faded and removed, leaves the compact mass of foliage close to the ground. It is a plant that increases itself with great rapidity, every morsel of it forming a plant, just the same as Daisies. *S. granulata flore-pleno*, as its name denotes, has roots resembling corns of grain. It is increased by separating and planting these as soon as it has ripened its tops. They should be planted in rows in open rich soil; and when removed in autumn, should be planted thickly in the beds, preserving some soil to the roots in the process. The Saxifrages are very numerous, and mostly all pretty either in flowers or foliage. Many of those in the list of Alpine plants have very beautiful foliage, and can be used effectively in conjunction with spring-flowering plants.

Scilla alba, 12 inches, white—May.

Scilla amoena, 6 inches, blue—March and April.

Scilla bifolia, 3 inches, blue—March and April.

Scilla italicica, 9 inches, blue—March and April.

Scilla nutans, 10 inches, blue and white—April.

Scilla peruviana, 12 inches, blue—May.

Scilla præcox, 6 inches, blue—April and May.

Scilla sibirica, 4 inches, blue—March and April.

Scilla verna, 6 inches, blue and white—April and May.

These lovely gems are most beautiful spring bulbs, and deserving of more extensive cultivation. *S. sibirica* and *S. amoena* are unrivalled as dwarf blue plants for margins and

front lines, and for very small beds are invaluable. *S. præcox* and *S. sibirica* are admirable window plants in pots. A light sandy soil suits them best; and planted for margins, they may be allowed to remain for several years without removal. When bought, they should be planted in October, about 3 inches deep; and when the soil is heavy, they should be covered with light gritty soil, such as road-scrapings.

Sempervivum Funckii.
Sempervivum arachnoideum.
Sempervivum arenarium.
Sempervivum californicum, 2 inches.
Sempervivum globiferum.
Sempervivum montanum.
Sempervivum fimbriatum.

Lovely little plants, forming themselves into large dense green rosettes, each leaf of *californicum* being tipped with dark brown. They make a most lovely compact edging to small beds when planted closely, and thrive well in ordinary garden soil, and propagate themselves by forming small offsets round each plant, which, taken off and set in rich sandy soil, become nice plants 3 to 4 inches across in the season. They bear removal well.

STOCKS.

East Lothian Intermediate, crimson, 12 to 15 inches.
East Lothian Intermediate, purple, 12 to 15 inches.
East Lothian Intermediate, scarlet, 12 to 15 inches.
East Lothian Intermediate, white, 12 to 15 inches.
East Lothian Wall-leaved, white, 10 inches.

Whether it be for autumn, spring, or early summer decoration, these Stocks rank amongst the very *élite* of flowering plants. Their purity of colour and abundance of bloom, together with their easy management, recommend them to all. Their treatment for autumn flowering has been already detailed. To have them in bloom in spring and early summer, the seed requires to be sown about the middle of May or first week in June. This is earlier than is generally practised; but unless they are well-established plants before winter, they are too late in flowering to come in with the generality of spring flowers. The best place to sow is in a border of light, not very rich, soil, having an east or west aspect. As soon as they are 2 or 3 inches high, and before they become drawn, transplant them into beds, in rows about 6 inches apart each way. Till they get a fresh hold of the soil, and begin to grow, they will be the better of being shaded and watered, should the weather

be bright and dry. By the middle of September they make strong stocky plants—in some cases showing bloom-buds—and will be tolerably thick in the beds. Every other plant should then be potted off into 5 and 6 inch pots, according to their size. For this purpose, equal proportions of loam and leaf-mould, with a sixth of the whole of sand, is best; but those who cannot procure soil exactly of this description, will succeed very well with ordinary garden soil, mixing with it a little rotten dung and road-scrapings. When potted and watered, set them in a shady place, such as behind a wall or hedge, till they show the points of their white roots at the sides of the pots,—then they are ready to be fully exposed to the sun; after which they require to be well supplied with water.

Before severe frost sets in, they should be placed in cold frames when these are at command, plunging the pots in some open dry material, such as ashes or sawdust. They will winter very well without glass in cradles formed by running a board along each side, hooping over the space with rods, and protecting with mats and dry litter in severe frost. When all danger of severe frost is over, plant out in the beds where they are to bloom. In ordinary winters, Intermediate Stocks stand out all winter, especially in dry sheltered situations; and those left in the beds at the time of potting can be removed early in October to their blooming beds. If later than the time named, they do not get sufficient hold of the soil to enable them to stand the winter well. Of course, if lifted with balls, they have a great advantage; but Stocks do not make very fibrous roots, and are difficult to transplant with balls. In all cases where the winters are generally severe, it is much the safest to lift and pot a quantity to meet contingencies; and any extra care bestowed on them through the winter will be amply rewarded by splendid beds in spring and early summer. The varieties recommended always bloom best in the cool of the autumn, and are frequently fine till well on in December; and after that date, those who can place them in heat can lift in bloom the old plants in spring with success.

TULIPS.

Single Varieties.

Belle Alliance, 8 in., crimson scarlet. Brutus, 9 inches, golden yellow and red.	Canary Bird, 8 inches, yellow—April and May. Chrysolora, 8 inches, golden yellow.
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Cottage Maid, 6 inches, rose pink, white stripe.	Proserpine, 9 inches, rose.
Couleur Cardinal, 8 inches, crimson.	Queen Victoria, 6 inches, white.
Duc van Thol, 4 inches, scarlet.	Rosa mundi, 6 inches, white, bordered with red.
Duc van Thol, 4 inches, white.	Royal Standard, 8 inches, white, striped crimson.
Duc van Thol, 4 inches, yellow.	Silver Standard, 6 inches, white.
Globe de Rigaut, 7 inches, violet and white.	Sunbeam, 6 inches, scarlet.
Kaizerskroon, 6 inches, yellow and red.	Thomas Moore, 8 inches, orange.
Pax alba, 7 inches, pure white.	Vermilion Brilliant, 6 inches, ver- million scarlet.
Pottebakker, 10 inches, yellow, scarlet, and white.	Waterloo, 8 inches, crimson.
	Yellow Prince, 8 inches, bright yellow.

Double Varieties.

Blanc borde pourpre, 8 inches, violet purple—May.	Paeony Gold, 8 inches, golden yellow, feathered crimson.
Couronne des Roses, 8 inches, white.	Prince of Wales, 9 inches, crimson.
Duc van Thol, 6 inches, red, margined yellow.	Purple Crown, 8 inches, crimson.
Imperator rubrorum, 6 inches, scarlet.	Rex rubrorum, 8 inches, dark crimson.
La Candeur, 6 inches, white.	Salvator Rosa, 9 inches, light rose.
Le Blason, 9 inches, white, striped rose.	Tournesol, 6 inches, scarlet and yellow.
Mariage de ma Fille, 10 inches, white, striped violet.	Yellow Rose, 8 inches, golden yellow.
	Yellow Tournesol, 6 inches, yellow.

In making the above selection of Tulips, the object has been to combine distinctness of colour with dwarf stiff habit of growth, as being most effective, and otherwise suitable for masses and lines. Tulips rank among the most showy and valuable of bulbs for both indoor and border decoration. The ease with which they can be cultivated, their hardiness, and the low rates at which suitable varieties for beds can now be purchased, recommend them to all, and more especially to the amateur, who requires his borders gay in spring at a minimum of expense and labour. They require treatment very similar to that recommended for Hyacinths. The beds intended for them should be deeply dug or trenched, and well pulverised; and if they have been previously kept in good condition as to manuring and richness, a little leaf-mould is all that need be applied in autumn. If the soil is naturally retentive, a greater proportion of leaf-mould should be mixed in; and if road-scrapings, or any light sharp soil, can be mixed in with the surface spit, it will be very beneficial, as Tulips thrive best in an open soil, from which water passes quickly away. The planting should be performed before the middle or end of October, if possible. They will be much benefited by a handful of fresh sandy soil round each bulb. The generality of them, when required in masses, without any groundwork composed of dwarf annuals, &c., should be planted 6 inches apart

each way. The dwarfer varieties—such as the Van Thols—are best at 4 inches. When the soil is levelled up over them, the crowns of the bulbs should be 3 inches deep. The single varieties are the earliest to bloom; and when a lasting row or bed is required, a good plan is to plant a single and a double of the same colour time about. Like the Hyacinth, and other upright-growing plants, Tulips are well adapted for planting in groups, or dotted over the surface of a groundwork formed of low-growing annuals, and such as Pansies or Daisies. Many of the striped and tipped varieties are very pretty and interesting, planted as mixtures in beds or mixed borders. If not turning yellow when they have to be removed in order to make way for the summer plants, they should be carefully lifted and heeled into light soil for a time; and when the foliage has decayed, the bulbs should be dried in the sun, and stored away in a dry cool place till needed again in autumn. But so cheaply can these be purchased now, that unless the bulbs can be well ripened off, they are not worth the trouble.

Triteleia uniflora, 9 inches, porcelain blue, shaded white—April and May.

This pretty little plant is quite hardy, and, from the great substance of its flowers, remains in bloom a long time, and is a beautiful plant for small beds and lines. It can be bought at a moderate price, and succeeds with the same management as the Tulip in any ordinary garden soil. It should be planted not later than the first week of November, and should have a warm situation and soil.

Vinca minor, golden variegated.
Vinca minor, silver variegated.

For forming permanent edgings to large beds, these Vincas are very effective. They can be trimmed to any desired height and form when they get well established, and will also bear pegging down. They increase themselves into stools, which can be lifted and separated when it is desired to increase them; or cuttings put in when the growths become moderately firm, root freely; but if laid down, plenty of young rooted layers can always be got. These and the common Periwinkles are excellent things for planting in shaded situations, or for planting round the sides of baskets, or for hanging over raised beds.

VIOLAS.

Admiration, dark purple.
Alpha, nearly blue.
Cornuta, lavender.
Cornuta, perfection, purple.
Lutea major, yellow.

Mrs Bullock, white.
Perpetual Yellow, yellow.
Robin Hood, purple.
Tory, bluish purple.

THE PANSY SECTION.

Adonis, purple.	Pioneer, white.
Canary, yellow.	Princess of Wales, 6 inches, blue.
Cleveden Blue, light blue.	Triumph, mauve, purple blotch.
Crossflat Rival, blue.	White Queen, 6 inches, white.
Golden Bedder, yellow.	White Swan, white.
Imperial Blue, 8 inches, deep blue.	

Those who have never witnessed the display that can be produced with these varieties of Pansies, can form very little conception of it. I am not certain that any other plants could be named that will produce such an amount of bloom at any season, in April and May particularly.

The way to have these in perfection for large beds in spring is to propagate in September, and plant out in March. Where the soil and climate are moist, they bloom well nearly the whole summer, and about October it will be found that they throw up a mass of fine fresh young growths from the centres of the plants. The summer-flowering growths should then be all cut away, the plants lifted with balls, and planted where they are wanted to bloom in spring. In this way they make splendid plants, and bloom most profusely. They do not, managed thus, give so much flower through the winter months as younger plants propagated early, either by division of the older plants or from cuttings in spring. If the plants are lifted carefully at the end of May or early in June from the flower-garden, and laid in free rich soil in a shady place, cutting away all the more exhausted parts, and keeping them watered occasionally for a time, they soon begin to recruit their energies. They can, in July, be divided into as many pieces as can be had with roots, and planted fully deeper than they were before in free rich soil. They are very fond of well-rotted hotbed manure, and it should be applied freely, if fine healthy plants are to be produced. Planted thus, and kept watered and in a shaded situation, they form plenty of fine fresh cuttings by the month of August, which root freely under hand-glasses in sandy soil. But those who have not even a hand-glass can root them behind a north wall, where the sun does not reach them. These cuttings root quickly, and will be ready for putting out into beds to grow a while before the borders where they are to bloom can be got ready for them. If they can be planted in October, all the better; but they can be planted with success, and without much check, up till Christmas, when the weather is mild. Still it is best to plant before the end of November at the latest. The larger divided

plants can be used for beds, and the young plants from the cuttings for lines and edgings: all of them will make a fine show in spring.

The varieties named seed freely, and if sown separately will produce young plants resembling, in the majority of instances, the parents—particularly Yellow Prince. If the seed is sown about the end of June, the young seedlings make fine strong plants to plant at the usual time. In planting them in the beds, all the shoots that are longer than the others should be laid down into the ground; and in all cases deep planting is to be recommended. They are kept steady in the ground, and they root freely at the joints. The soil in which they do best for spring blooming is a rather sandy loam, well enriched with manure—although they are by no means particular, and thrive fairly in any common garden soil that is not absolutely poor or sandy, or too retentive.

Viola odorata (Sweet-scented Violets); various.

Few neglect the culture of these sweet flowers, and a nook should always be devoted to them in the flower-garden, where ladies and gentlemen can conveniently pick a few fresh blooms when they feel disposed. There are now numerous varieties of various shades of colour. Probably the old single and double Russian Blue and the White are the hardiest, and the Neapolitan the sweetest. But in sheltered situations under walls, where a few evergreen boughs can be placed over them during severe frost, most of the varieties do very well. Maria Louisa is very early; the Czar is hardy, and larger than the Russian; Comte de Brazza, with its double-white flowers, is very beautiful and sweet; and King of Violets is a very handsome and large double blue.

When they have made fresh growths in April and May, a piece of ground, such as a west border, should be well manured with leaf-mould, and if heavy, have some sand and light loamy soil mixed in with the top 6 inches. The runners should then be raised with a fork, and the most compact and youngest that have a root to them selected and planted 8 inches apart each way. A slight shading for a few days after planting is necessary; and throughout the summer they ought not to be allowed to suffer for want of water. The runners, which they—especially some of the varieties—will produce in quantity, if allowed, should be pinched off as they appear. In this way

they make fine plants for planting by the end of September, and will bloom more or less according to the weather, but most profusely in spring, up to the middle of May.

Hardy Spring-flowering Shrubs, suitable for Beds and Shrubbery Borders, and that thrive best in peaty soils, but succeed very well in a compost such as is described for Rhododendrons.

"E" are evergreen, "D" are deciduous.

		Feet.	Colour.	Time of Flowering.
E	Andromeda cassinifolia, . . .	1½	White.	June.
E	Andromeda floribunda, . . .	2 or 3	White.	May and June.
E	Andromeda polifolia (various), . . .	1	Pink.	Do.
E	Andromeda pulverulenta, . . .	1½	White.	June.
E	Andromeda tetragona, . . .	6 to 9 in.	{ White, ting- ed red.	March & April.
D	Azalea mollis, . . .	3 to 4	Various.	May and June.
D	Azalea pontica (many varieties, some fragrant), . . .	4, 6	Various.	Do.
D	Azalea nudiflora, { Many varie- ties; all the	2 or 3	Various.	Do.
D	Azalea speciosa, { Ghent var- ieties fine,			
E	Erica australis, . . .	3, 4	Pink.	April to June.
E	Erica carnea (herbacea), . . .	1	Red.	January to May.
E	Erica ciliaris, . . .	1	Pink.	April and May.
E	Erica codonooides, . . .	3	Red.	Do.
E	Erica herbacea, . . .	1	Pale red.	March.
E	Erica mediterranea, . . .	8, 4	Red.	March to May.
E	Erica mediterranea alba.			
E	Erica mediterranea glauca.			
E	Erica mediterranea nana.			
E	Erica mediterranea rubra.			
E	Kalmia angustifolia (various), . . .	1, 2	Pink and red.	May to July.
E	Kalmia glauca, . . .	1, 2	Pink.	April and May.
E	Kalmia latifolia, . . .	2, 3	Flesh-coloured	
E	Ledum decumbens, . . .	2	White.	May.
E	Ledum latifolium, . . .	2, 3	White.	April and May.
E	Ledum palustre, . . .	2	White.	Do.
E	Ledum thymifolium, . . .	6 in. to 1 ft.	White.	May.
D	Rhodora canadensis, . . .	2 to 4	Pale purple.	April and May.
<i>Rhododendron Species.</i>				
E	Rhododendron atrovirens, . . .	1	Purple.	March.
E	Rhododendron Catawbiense (various), . . .	4 to 6	Purple white.	April and May.
E	Rhododendron caucasicum, . . .	1½	Straw & pink.	April.
E	Rhododendron Dauricum, . . .	3, 4	Pale purple.	Dec. to May.
E	Rhododendron Dauricum atro- virens, . . .	3 to 6	Bright purple.	Do.
E	Rhododendron ferrugineum (various), . . .	2, 3	Red.	June.
E	Rhododendron Govenianum, . . .	1 or 2	Fragrant.	Do.
E	Rhododendron hirsutum varie- gatum, . . .	..	{ Golden varie- gated.	
E	Rhododendron hirsutum (vari- ous), . . .	2 to 4	{ Red, of vari- ous shades.	Do.
E	Rhododendron maximum, . . .	6 to 10	Purple white.	Do.
E	Rhododendron odoratum, . . .	1 or 2	Fragrant.	Do.

RHODODENDRONS—HYBRIDISED VARIETIES.

I. Early Varieties flowering from the beginning of February to the middle of May.

Albertus (various), various tints, white to pink.	Igneescens, scarlet.
Altoclarens, scarlet.	Jacksonii, light rose.
Augusta van Geert, purple.	Limbatum, blush, bordered with crimson.
Blanc Superb, white.	Mirabile, deep rose.
Brilliant, crimson scarlet.	Nobleanum album, blush white.
Broughtonianum, rosy lilac.	Nobleanum (various), damask crimson.
Caucasicum pictum, blush, crimson spots.	Præcox, rosy purple.
Comet, fiery crimson.	Russelianum (various), bright crimson.
Coriaceum, white.	Sir Walter Scott (various), pink to rose.
Eclipse, crimson.	Vestitum coccineum.
Florence Nightingale, light pink.	Vesuvius, crimson scarlet.
Gloire de Gand, white, spotted.	Victorianum, scarlet.
Grand Arab, scarlet.	

II. Medium Varieties flowering in May.

Alarm, scarlet, white centre.	Hugh Fraser, purple.
Albion, rosy red, spotted.	Iago, rosy crimson.
Album elegans, white.	Ingramii, blush white, with spots.
Alexander Adie, scarlet.	Lady Dorothy Neville (Standard of Flanders), purple, spotted.
Ametlystimum, blush, tipped with puce.	Lady Easthope, clear rose, dark spots.
Archimedes, crimson.	Lady Eleanor Cathcart, clear rose, spotted like a Geranium.
Barclayanum, bright crimson.	Lady Gordon, white, yellow spots.
Beauty of Surrey, rosy scarlet.	Lord Clyde, blood.
Blandyanum, rosy crimson.	Lord Eversley, dark crimson.
Blandyanum superbum, brilliant cerise.	Lord John Russell, pale rose, dark spots.
Blatteum (Sir Isaac Newton), dark purple.	Lorenzo, white, yellow eye.
Brayananum, scarlet.	Luciferum, white.
Bylsianum, light red, pale centre.	Mammoth, deep rich red.
Congestum roseum, deep rose.	Mrs Hemans, white, shaded pink.
Corregio, dark scarlet.	Ne plus ultra, purple, light centre.
Curreanum, lilac purple.	Neige et cerise, white and red.
Delicatissimum, pale pink, fading into white.	Nero, dark rosy purple, spotted.
Duc de Brabant, white.	Omar Pacha, purplish crimson.
Elfrieda, deep rose.	Ornatnum, dark scarlet.
Everestianum, rosy lilac.	Paxtonii, like Lady E. Cathcart ; fine foliage.
Fastuosum flore-pleno, lilac, large truss.	Perspicuum, milky white.
Faust, rosy lilac.	Pictum, white, buff spot.
Fleur de Marie, rosy crimson with white blotch.	Ruth, blush white, finely spotted.
Genserik, dark claret.	Schiller, blue, shading into purple.
Gloriosum, white, red spots.	Sir Charles Napier, rose, spotted.
Hendersonii, rosy crimson.	Stamfordianum, claret, black blotch.
Henry Drummond, purplish crimson.	The Gem, white, striped pink.
	Towardii, rosy lilac.
	Zuleika, delicate blush.

III. Late Varieties blooming mostly in June.

Alexander Adie, brilliant rosy scarlet.	Butlerianum, white, bold flower.
Baroness Lionel de Rothschild, crimson.	Candidissimum, white ; perhaps the finest.

Caractacus, rich purplish crimson.	Mrs John Clutton, white.
Charles Dickens, dark scarlet.	Mrs John Waterer, bright rose, spotted.
Colonel, deepest crimson ; late.	Mrs Standish, pure white, brownish spots.
Concessum, deep rose, light centre.	Mrs William Bovill, rich rosy scarlet.
H. W. Sargent, crimson.	President Van den Hecke, crimson.
Helen Waterer, rosy crimson, pale centre.	Purity, white, faint yellow eye.
John Gair, crimson.	Purpureum magnificum, purple.
John Spencer, rose, margined with pink.	Satanella, rosy red.
Joseph Whitworth, dark lake.	Standish's Perfection, pale peach, ochre spots.
Lady Egremont, deep rosy pink and red.	Star of England, pale, pinkish white ; large.
Leopardii, rosy lilac, red spots.	Stella, pale rose, chocolate blotch on upper petal.
Lord John Russell, rose.	The Grand Arab, crimson.
Maculatum nigrum superbum, purple, dark spots ; very late.	The Maroon, chocolate.
Marguerite, white, washed with lilac.	The Queen, mauve.
Michael Waterer, bright crimson scarlet.	Vandyck, bright red.
Minnie, white, chocolate spots.	William E. Gladstone, crimson.
Mr John Waterer, bright carmine.	

Many more varieties might be added to each of these sections. Those under the first head, having a large infusion of the blood of *R. arboreum*, *campanulatum*, and *caucasicum*, flower early, and their blooms are often destroyed by the spring frosts. They can hardly be dispensed with, and may be associated with spring gardening. Besides, some of them grown in large pots or tubs afford useful ornamentation in the conservatory. The later varieties under heads II. and III. have had *R. ponticum* and *Catawbiense* for their female parents. They are perfectly hardy as shrubs, but sometimes the blooms of Class II. suffer a nip from the dry frosts towards the end of May. Group III. cannot be too strongly commended, particularly the white varieties, which are extremely effective in the decoration of shrubberies.

The Sikkim and Bhotan Rhododendrons, from which so much was at one time expected, are scarcely suited to the outdoor climate of Britain, unless in the mildest localities where they can have peat soil. Even where they survive the winter, they seldom form flower-buds. The following have bloomed occasionally in the open air near Edinburgh—*R. glaucum*, *ciliatum*, *fulgens*, *Thomsonii*, and perhaps some others. Probably, if they were treated like Camellias, much might be effected with them. *R. Edgeworthii*, *Dalhousii*, *Jenkinsii*, *Madennii*, *Aucklandii*, *Nuttallii*, &c., form admirable greenhouse and conservatory plants.

The foregoing lists of Rhododendrons have been looked over by men who are well acquainted with the very numerous

varieties of this beautiful hardy flowering shrub ; and such have been selected as are first-rate, in every respect, for a select and limited collection. There are many newer varieties which are very fine, but still so high in price as to prevent their being popular. Those who wish to know about these can refer to the catalogues of the nurserymen who grow them.

There is not another flowering shrub that deserves or will repay attention so well as the Rhododendron. It is magnificent beyond all rivals when in bloom, while few evergreens excel it as such at any season of the year. To grow them in the highest perfection there is no doubt that a peaty soil is best ; but let not this debar any from attempting to cultivate so splendid a flower. I have seen them succeed well on almost any soil, from a heavy clayey loam to a light sandy soil, provided there is no lime or chalk in its composition. They will not only not do well in limy soils, but in some cases will literally die out altogether in course of years. All who can procure a peaty soil should of course do so ; and now that railways have opened up almost every tract of country in the kingdom, peat is much more easily and cheaply procured by those who are remote from peaty localities.

But the employment of peat in the culture of Rhododendrons, though highly desirable, is not necessary. Rhododendrons may be, and are, grown well without a particle of it. In some localities there naturally exists a light silky loam, which suits Rhododendrons remarkably well, especially after a considerable proportion of well-decayed vegetable matter, such as leaf-mould, or the vegetable rot-heap which exists about most gardens, has been mixed with it. But where a compost has to be entirely made up for Rhododendrons, and peat is not attainable, then a different course must be followed. This becomes necessary where the soil is either a hard impenetrable clay, or a poor hungry soil, which is too dry for such a moisture-loving plant as this. To prepare beds or borders for Rhododendrons under such circumstances, the first thing to do is to remove the unsuitable soil to the depth of about 18 inches or 2 feet, and in clayey soils to see that the drainage is good ; for though fond of moisture, stagnant water about the roots is highly injurious. Into the bottom of gravelly hot soils 6 inches of a heavy loam may be put with advantage, in as far as it will help to secure a cool subsoil. The staple may be composed of loam, turfey material from the sides of highways or ditches or hedges, well-decayed leaves, and a little thoroughly rotten cow-

dung. Indeed, any thoroughly decomposed vegetable refuse which can be brought together, such as old very rotten tan and the substances already named, and thrown into a heap, to be turned over and mixed with as much sand as will make it sparkle—such as sand and chips from a freestone quarry—all thoroughly incorporated, will grow Rhododendrons and other American plants in a very satisfactory way. What is required most is a soil loose, rich, and capable of holding moisture without being stagnant, which beds made in clayey soils are subject to, although cold clay subsoils are much more favourable than hot gravelly ones.

Rhododendrons may be moved and planted any time when at rest—that is, when not in bloom or making growth; but October is the most desirable time for planting. The first summer after being planted, the surface of the soil should be mulched with half-decayed litter, such as leaves, in order to prevent evaporation, and to keep the roots cool and moist; and during dry weather a heavy watering occasionally of pond-water will be of great benefit. When the plants show signs of weakness in such compositions, they should have a top-dressing of some rich compost spread over the beds, such as cow-manure and loam, in equal proportions; and as they bear removal with impunity, they can be lifted at intervals of years, and some fresh rich compost added to the soil, and then replanted.

Plants with clear stems of a foot or two from the ground always flower better than low bushes; and in the northern and colder parts of the kingdom it is a mistake to plant American plants in shaded situations. They set their buds and bloom much better when exposed to the sun. In hotter districts, a dell not overhung with leaves, but having a north aspect, is the most suitable; and to look down on American plants in June in such a situation is a sight worth a struggle to produce, especially when standard plants of striking colours are interspersed among the dwarfs, giving light and shade and relief. A mixture of deciduous or other less formal shrubs, judiciously interspersed, rather improves the effect of Rhododendrons at all times. Any one who has seen the fine displays annually produced in London under canvas, will not easily rid his mind of the grandeur of the Rhododendron as a decorative plant.

CHAPTER XIV.

DECIDUOUS HARDY SPRING-FLOWERING SHRUBS, SUITABLE FOR BEDS AND SHRUBBERY BORDEES, ETC.

ALTHOUGH our primary object in this work has been to treat of what is generally termed and understood as the flower-garden proper, we hope it may prove useful to many of our readers who are unacquainted with flowering shrubs, and deciduous spring-flowering shrubs in particular, to append a list of the most useful and beautiful of them, which generally flower in early spring, and onwards to the end of May. Some of the best of the dwarfer-growing varieties are very suitable for beds, and might be so used with advantage where spring variety is an object. All of them are excellent for planting in shrubberies, and are relieved by, and give relief to, their more sombre evergreen rivals. Deciduous spring-flowering shrubs do not generally receive that amount of care and good culture which their merits deserve. Their delicate tints when in flower, and more graceful and airy appearance as compared with evergreens—beautiful and useful as the latter are—demand more attention; and were the same amount of culture and care bestowed on them which has been deservedly bestowed on evergreen shrubs and conifers, they would well repay all that could be done for them. They bloom at a time when the surroundings of the spring garden are more tame than those of the autumn garden, which latter season brings with it all the gorgeousness of varied tints in fruits and foliage; and even heavy and splendid masses of evergreens, which form the boundaries of flower-gardens, would look all the richer and less gloomy were they lightened up with a due proportion of the more abundant flowering deciduous shrubs, which generally do well in most localities and soils. The following list comprises a very effective selection.

*Deciduous Hardy Spring-flowering Shrubs, suitable for Beds
and Shrubbery Borders, &c.*

Those marked "w" are suitable for walls.

Require rather a sunni- er situa- tion.	In a shaded place.	Colour.	Height.	Time of Flowering.
		Amygdalus incana (hoary almond),	Red.	2 to 3
		Amygdalus nana (the almond), .	Rose.	2 to 3
		Amygdalus nana alba, . . .	White.	2 to 3
		Amygdalus persica flore-pleno, .	Crimson, rose, & white.	3 to 4
	w	Cerasus japonica, . . .	Pale blush.	2 to 4
	w	Cerasus japonica alba flore-pleno, .	Double white.	3 to 4
	w	Cerasus japonica multiplex, .	Pink.	3 to 4
	w	Cerasus sinensis, . . .	Red & white.	2 to 3
	w	Cydonia japonica, . . .	Scarlet.	5
	w	Cydonia japonica alba, . . .	White.	5
	w	Cydonia japonica flore-semipleno, .	Red.	5
	w	Cydonia japonica grandiflora, .	Red.	5
	w	Cytisus albus, . . .	White.	4 to 12
	w	Cytisus incarnatus, . . .	Fleshy p'rple.	5 to 7
	w	Daphne mezereum, . . .	Red.	3 to 4
	w	Deutzia gracilis, . . .	White.	3 to 4
	w	Dirca palustris,	Yellow.	8 to 4
	w	Forsythia viridissima,	Yellow.	6
	w	Fothergilla alnifolia,	White.	3
	w	Genista prostrata,	Yellow.	1
	w	Genista triquetra (creeper),	Yellow.	1
	w	Hamamelis virginica,	Yellow.	5 to 15
	w	Jasminum nudiflorum, . . .	Yellow.	8 to 5
	w	Lonicera tartarica, . . .	Red.	6
	w	Magnolia conspicua,	White.	..
w	w	Magnolia conspicua Soulangiana, .	White, tinged with purple.	..
w	w	Magnolia purpurea, . . .	Purple.	3 to 5
w	w	Myrica gale, . . .	Brown.	2 to 4
w	w	Persica vulgaris flore-pleno, .	Rose.	10
w	w	Persica vulgaris flore-pleno alba, .	White.	..
w	w	Persica vulgaris flore-pleno canel- lia-flowered,	Crimson.	..
w	w	Persica vulgaris flore-pleno rosea, .	Dark rose.	..
w	w	Philadelphus latifolius, . . .	White.	6 to 8
w	w	Prunus triloba,	Rose.	..
w	w	Pyrus arbutifolia,	White.	4
w	w	Pyrus floribunda,	White.	4
w	w	Pyrus grandiflora,	White.	4
w	w	Pyrus pubens, . . .	White.	4
w	w	Ribes aureum, . . .	Yellow.	6
w	w	Ribes aureum praecox, . . .	Yellow.	6
w	w	Ribes punctatum, . . .	Yellow.	6
w	w	Ribes sanguineum, . . .	Rosy red.	6
w	w	Ribes sanguineum stro-rubens,	Purple.	6
w	w	Ribes sanguineum flore-pleno,	Rosy red.	6
w	w	Syringa persica,	Purple.	4 to 6
w	w	Syringa persica alba, . . .	White.	4 to 6
w	w	Syringa persica laciniate,	Purple.	4 to 6
w	w	Syringa persica salviifolia, . . .	Purple.	4 to 6
w	w	Syringa rothomagensis, . . .	Purple.	6 to 8
w	w	Syringa vulgaris (dwarf French, purple),	Purple.	6
w	w	Syringa vulgaris (dwarf French, white),	White.	6
w	w	Syringa vulgaris (lilac), . . .	Various.	May and June.
w	w	Spirea ariaefolia, . . .	Creamywhite.	6 to 8

		Colour.	Height.	Time of Flowering.
			Feet.	
	<i>Spiraea bella</i> ,	Rose.	8 to 4	May and June.
	<i>Spiraea callosa</i> ,	Pink.	8 to 4	June.
	<i>Spiraea Douglassii</i> ,	Purple.	4	June.
	<i>Spiraea lavigata</i> ,	White.	8 to 4	May and June.
	<i>Spiraea Lindleyana</i> ,	Cream.	6 to 10	..
	<i>Spiraea opulifolia</i> ,	White.	8	June.
	<i>Spiraea thalictroides</i> ,	White.	2 to 3	May and June.
	<i>Viburnum opulus</i> ,	White.	6 to 12	May and June.
	<i>Viburnum opulus sterile</i> ,	White.	6 to 12	May and June.
	<i>Weigela rosea</i> ,	Rose.	4	April and May.

The heights given are those which they are supposed to attain under cultivation in this country. All the shrubs which are disposed to form dense growths should be looked over annually, either immediately they are done flowering or when they have shed their leaves, and be thinned partially out, so as to prevent their becoming masses of weak and unproductive spray, which cannot get properly ripened, and, as a consequence, does not produce flowers in perfection. All deep digging amongst their roots should be avoided; but a top-dressing of decayed leaves, or a little manure slightly pointed into the surface of the ground, after they have been planted for some years, is of great advantage to them.

Select List of Hardy Spring-flowering Evergreen and Sub-Evergreen Shrubs, suitable for Beds and Shrubbery Borders.

"w" suitable for walls.

		Feet.	Colour.	Time of Flowering.
w	<i>Berberis concinna</i> , . . .	1 to 3	Yellow.	November to April.
w	<i>Berberis Darwinii</i> , . . .	3 to 5	Yellow.	April and May.
w	<i>Berberis dulcis</i> , . . .	4	Yellow.	April and May.
w	<i>Berberis empetrifolia</i> , . . .	3 to 5	Yellow.	December to March
w	<i>Berberis fascicularis</i> , . . .	6	Yellow.	March to May.
	<i>Daphne Cneorum</i> , . . .	1	Light purple.	{ April, and again in November.
	<i>Daphne Cneorum variegata</i>, . . .	..	Pink. ..	..
	<i>Daphne collina</i> , . . .	3	Greenish yellow.	April. January to March.
	<i>Daphne laureola</i> , . . .	3 to 4	..	..
	<i>Daphne major</i>.	..	..	..
	<i>Daphne pontica</i> , . . .	3 to 4	Greenish yellow.	April and May.
	<i>Garrya elliptica</i> , . . .	6 to 12	Greenish yellow	November to March.
	<i>Gaultheria acuminata</i> , . . .	2	White.	May.
	<i>Mahonia fascicularis</i> , . . .	3 to 5	Yellow.	March and May.
	<i>Mahonia repens</i> , . . .	3 to 5	Yellow.	April and May.
	<i>Ulex europea flore-pleno</i> , . . .	3 to 6	Yellow.	February to May.
	<i>Viburnum tinus</i> , . . .	8 to 12	White.	November to March.

*Berry-bearing Evergreens, suitable for Beds and Shrubbery Borders
in Winter and Early Spring.*

			Feet.	Colour of Berries.
w	<i>Arbutus unedo crispus,</i>	.	.	Scarlet.
	<i>Arbutus unedo microphyllus,</i>	.	4 to 6	Scarlet.
	<i>Arbutus unedo salicifolius,</i>	.	8 to 5	Scarlet.
w	<i>Aucuba japonica,</i>	.	4 to 8	Scarlet.
	<i>Cotoneaster buxifolia,</i>	.	3 to 5	Scarlet.
w	<i>Cotoneaster marginata,</i>	.	3 to 4	Scarlet.
	<i>Cotoneaster microphylla,</i>	.	3 to 4	Scarlet.
	<i>Cotoneaster thymifolia,</i>	.	2 to 3	Scarlet.
	<i>Gaultheria procumbens,</i>	.	1	Red.
	<i>Gaultheria Shallon,</i>	.	2 to 3	Purple.
	<i>Ilex (Holly), in variety,</i>	.	3 to 5	Scarlet yellow.
	<i>Mahonia aquifolia,</i>	.	2 to 3	Bluish purple.
	<i>Pernettya angustifolia,</i>	.	2 to 3	Red.
	<i>Pernettya mucronata,</i>	.	2 to 3	Red.
w	<i>Pernettya speciosa,</i>	.	1½	..
	<i>Pyracantha crenulata,</i>	.	4 to 6	Red.
	<i>Ruscus aculeatus,</i>	.	3	Red.
	<i>Skimmia japonica,</i>	.	2 to 8	Scarlet.
	<i>Symporicarpus racemosus (snowberry),</i>	.	3 to 6	White.
	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpum,</i>	.	1	Reddish purple.
	<i>Vaccinium Vitis-idaea,</i>	.	1	Red.

Hardy Evergreen Shrubs with variegated Foliage, suitable for Beds and Shrubbery Borders in Winter and Spring.

<i>Aucuba japonica variegata.</i>	<i>Ilex lutescens ferox argentea.</i>
<i>Aucuba japonica limbata.</i>	<i>Ilex lutescens Queen.</i>
<i>Aucuba japonica mascula variegata.</i>	<i>Juniperus japonica aurea variegata.</i>
<i>Aucuba japonica multomaculata.</i>	<i>Juniperus sabina variegata.</i>
<i>Biota orientalis aurea.</i>	<i>Lavandula spica variegata.</i>
<i>Buxus sempervirens aurea nova.</i>	<i>Ligustrum japonicum tricolor.</i>
<i>Buxus suffruticosa argentea.</i>	<i>Osmanthus ilicifolius variegatus.</i>
<i>Calluna vulgaris aurea.</i>	<i>Osmanthus ilicifolius variegatus nanus.</i>
<i>Calluna vulgaris variegata.</i>	<i>Retinospora ericoides.</i>
<i>Cupressus Lawsoniana.</i>	<i>Retinospora filicoides nana aurea.</i>
<i>Cupressus Lawsoniana lutea.</i>	<i>Retinospora leptoclada.</i>
<i>Cupressus Lawsoniana nana glauca.</i>	<i>Retinospora pisifera argentea.</i>
<i>Daphne elegansissima.</i>	<i>Retinospora pisifera aurea.</i>
<i>Euonymus japonica argentea.</i>	<i>Retinospora plumosa argentea.</i>
<i>Euonymus japonica aurea.</i>	<i>Retinospora plumosa aurea.</i>
<i>Euonymus latifolius aurea - marginata.</i>	<i>Rhododendron ponticum variegatum.</i>
<i>Euonymus radicans.</i>	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus.</i>
<i>Hedera helix (Ivy)—the bush varieties.</i>	<i>Taxus baccata fastigiata aurea variegata.</i>
<i>Ilex lutescens albo-marginata.</i>	<i>Taxus baccata variegata.</i>
<i>Ilex lutescens albo-picta.</i>	<i>Thujopsis Dolabrata variegata.</i>
<i>Ilex lutescens aureo-marginata.</i>	<i>Vaccinium Vitis-idaea variegata.</i>

Climbers suitable for Covering Walls, &c.

"E" evergreen.

		Feet.	Colour.	Time of Flowering.
E	Ampelopsis hederacea, . . .	30 to 50	Crimson.	Fol. in aut.; fine.
	Ampelopsis Veitchii, . . .	20	Russet.	Fol. in autumn.
E	Aristolochia Siphon, . . .	30 to 50	Brown.	Fine foliage.
	Bignonia grandiflora, . . .	15	White.	June and July.
	Bridgesia spicata, . . .	30 to 50	White.	..
	Ceanothus azureus, . . .	10	Blue.	June to September.
	Clematis caerulea, . . .	10	Blue.	May and June.
	Clematis Gem, . . .	.. {	Deep lavender blue.	July to October.
	Clematis Hendersonii, . . .	8 to 10	Purple.	June to September.
	Clematis Jackmannii, . . .	10	Purple.	June to November.
	Clematis Lady Bovil, . . .	..	Light blue.	July to October.
	Clematis lanuginosa, . . .	10	Blue.	July to November.
	Clematis lanuginosa candida, . . .	..	White tinted.	July to October.
	Clematis lanuginosa nivea, . . .	..	Pure white.	July to October.
	Clematis Lawsoniana, . . .	..	Rosy purple.	July to October.
	Clematis magnifica, . . .	..	Reddish purple.	July to October.
	Clematis Prince of Wales, . . .	10	Purple.	..
	Clematis rubella, . . .	..	Purple.	..
	Clematis rubro violacea, . . .	..	Purple.	..
	Clematis Star of India, . . .	..	Plum.	July to October.
E	Hedera helix (Ivy). . .	..	..	..
	*Hedera algeriensis variegata, . . .	..	Silver.	..
	Hedera arboreascens albolutea, . . .	..	..	..
	Hedera aurea maculata, . . .	..	Gold.	..
	*Hedera canariensis aurea, . . .	..	Gold variegated foliage.	..
	Hedera canariensis nova, . . .	..	Green.	..
	*Hedera crenata, . . .	..	Green.	..
	Hedera digitata, . . .	..	Green.	..
	Hedera donerailensis minor, . . .	..	Green.	..
	*Hedera foliis aureis, . . .	..	Gold.	..
	*Hedera latifolia maculata, . . .	..	Gold and silver variegated.	..
	*Hedera marginata argentea, . . .	..	Silver.	..
	Hedera marginata pulchella, . . .	..	Silver.	..
	Hedera minor marmorata, . . .	..	Silver.	..
	Hedera palmata, . . .	..	Green.	..
	*Hedera palmata aurea, . . .	..	Golden.	..
	Hedera pennsylvanica, . . .	..	Green.	..
	Hedera poetica, . . .	..	Green.	..
	Hedera Rechneriana, . . .	..	Green.	..
E	*Hedera rhombaea variegata, . . .	..	Green.	..
	Hedera sagittifolia, . . .	..	Green.	..
	Jasminum nudiflorum, . . .	8	Yellow.	November to April.
	Jasminum officinale, . . .	20	White.	July to September.
	Jasminum revolutum, . . .	12	Yellow.	June to October.
	Ligustrum japonicum, . . .	6 to 8	White.	June and July.
E	Lonicera aureo-reticulata, . . .	20	Beautiful var. leaves, suitable for beds and edgings	..
	Lonicera brachypoda, . . .	15	..	..
E	Lonicera japonica, . . .	20	White and red.	June to September.
E	Lonicera Periclymenum (common Honeysuckle), . . .	20	Yellow and red.	June and July.
E	Lonicera rachypoda, . . .	20	Splendid foliage.	..
E	Lonicera sempervirens, . . .	10	Red.	May to August.

All suitable for beds and edgings to beds. Those marked * are the strongest and quickest growers.

		Feet.	Colour.	Time of Flowering.
	<i>Lycium barbarum</i> , . . .	20	Purple ..	..
	<i>Lycium europeum</i> , . . .	20	{ fruit red.	May to August.
	<i>Passiflora cærulea</i> , . . .	10 to 20	White and blue.	July to October.
	<i>Periploca graeca</i> , . . .	15 to 20	Purple.	July to August.
	<i>Tecomaria radicans major</i> ,	20 to 30	Orange.	August and Sept.
	<i>Vitis cordifolia</i> ,		{ Leaves change	..
	<i>Vitis labrusca</i> (wild vine),	20 to 30	{ to various	
	<i>Vitis riparia</i> ,		colours.	
	<i>Wistaria sinensis</i> , . . .	50 to 200	Pale blue.	May and June.

Shrubs suitable for Covering Walls.

		Feet.	Colour.	Time of Flowering.
	<i>Acer Negundo variegatum</i> , .	20	{ Varieg. foliage, beautiful.	..
	<i>Berberis Darwinii</i> , . . .	10 to 20	Dark green.	May to August.
	<i>Ceanothus azureus</i> , . . .	5 to 10	Blue.	May.
	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> , . . .	20 to 30	Purplish pink.	Jan. to March.
	<i>Chimonanthus fragrans</i> ,	6 to 8	Yellowish.	June and July.
	<i>Cistus ladaniferus</i> ,	5 to 6	White.	..
	<i>Cotoneaster microphylla</i> ,	10 to 15	Dark green.	May.
	<i>Crataegus pyracantha</i>, . . .	..	White, berries red.	{ Greater part of year.
	<i>Cydonia japonica</i> , . . .	5 to 6	Scarlet.	July to Sept.
	<i>Escallonia macrantha</i> , . . .	6 to 8	Reddish purple.	May to October.
	<i>Garrya elliptica</i> , . . .	10 to 12	Dark green.	..
	<i>Jasminum fruticans</i> ,	6 to 8	Yellow.	July and August.
	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> (Sweet-bay),	6 to 20		April and May.
	<i>Ligustrum japonicum aureo-variegatum</i> ,	6 to 10	{ White flowers, var. foliage.	April to June.
	<i>Magnolia Eximia</i> ,	..	White. "	May to Sept.
	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ,	10 to 20	White.	May.
	<i>Photinia serrulata</i> ,	12	White.	April to June.
	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> ,	10 to 15	Green.	May to Sept.
	<i>Robinia hispida</i> ,	6	Rose.	May.
	<i>Salisburyia adiantifolia</i> , . . .	6 to 20	Yellow.	May.

In addition to those marked "w" in the other selections, these shrubs are suitable for covering walls and trellises.

Summer Climbers that can be easily raised from Seed and Cuttings, and that are suitable for Covering and Blooming on Walls, &c., in Summer and Autumn.

Calystegia flore-pleno.

Calystegia pubescens.

Cobaea scandens, purple flowers, elegant foliage.

Cobaea scandens variegata, variegated foliage; very pretty.

Convolvulus major.

Eccremocarpus scaber, orange, bunches of trumpet-shaped flowers.

Loasa aurantiaca, orange.

Lophospermum Hendersonii, rosy carmine.

- Lophospermum scandens*, rose.
Lophospermum spectabile, dark rose.
Maurandya Barclayana, violet.
Maurandya Barclayana alba, white.
Maurandya purpurea grandiflora, purplish crimson.
Tropaeolum canariense, yellow; fine for covering large spaces quickly.
Tropaeolum speciosum: a perennial tuberous-rooted variety; hardy in most places.
Tropaeolum. See also Climbing Varieties in list of *Tropaeolums*, all of which are excellent for covering spaces quickly.

The whole of these are also suitable for planting round the sides of vases and baskets for weepers. They should be sown in February in a gentle bottom-heat, and afterwards potted singly, two or three in a 4-inch pot, and forwarded in heat till strong and well rooted; then, when well hardened off, planted out about the end of May.

Besides these, the following are suitable for planting round the sides of vases and baskets:—

<i>Alyssum variegatum</i> .	<i>Pelargonium Rollison's Unique</i> .
<i>Convolvulus mauritanicus</i> .	<i>Pelargonium Mangles' Variegated</i> .
<i>Fuchsias</i> (of sorts).	<i>Petunias</i> .
<i>Gazania splendens</i> .	<i>Phlox Drummondii</i> .
<i>Heliotropes</i> .	<i>Rhodanthe Manglesii</i> .
<i>Ivy-leaf Pelargoniums</i> (various).	<i>Tropaeolums</i> (dwarf-growing).
<i>Linaria cymbalaria</i> .	<i>Variegated Ivies</i> .
<i>Lobelias</i> .	<i>Verbenas</i> .
<i>Nierembergias</i> .	<i>Vincas</i> .

For winter weepers, all the more moderate-growing hardy evergreen climbers are suitable for planting round the edges of vases and baskets, such as Ivies and *Helianthemums*; while many of the *Saxifrages*, *Aubrietas*, *Alyssums*, and evergreen Candytufts, &c., furnish sufficient variety of lesser things for the edges of vases and baskets and raised beds.

The whole of the foregoing evergreen variegated and berry-bearing plants are exceedingly useful for mixed borders where winter and early spring effect is the object; and a good few genera can be selected from them to play an effective part in the winter and early spring, both in beds by themselves and in combination with what are known, and have been already treated of, as spring bedding plants. Where effect has to be studied immediately after the autumn flowers are removed, of necessity the chief portion of the plants used must be evergreen shrubby plants. For however beautiful many of our spring-flowering subjects are in spring, they are, through a severe winter, oftentimes dejected enough in appearance. Some of the harder-foliaged herbaceous plants can, however, be pressed into service, where winter effect is the point aimed

at without reference to spring. When both seasons have to be studied, selections from both shrubby, bulbous, and perennial plants can be effectively combined. At the same time, where such has to be attempted, I would recommend, as is shown in the designs, that many of the beds be composed exclusively of close-growing evergreen plants, such as the various Ivies, which are exceedingly beautiful for groundworks; and that into such beds, contrasting shrubs and other things, such as *Coniferæ* in a small state, Hollies of various-coloured foliage, *Garrya elliptica*, *Yuccas*, and berried plants, should be introduced. These, dotted into low closely-growing carpets of green and variegated foliage, would look exceedingly well, and have a distinct character; while these panel plants might be removed in time, and specimen *Pelargoniums* and other summer-flowering and ornamental-foliaged plants could take their place, and thus add a distinct and interesting feature to the summer garden. Spring flowers might also play their part in such beds, by introducing them round the edgings, where a space might be preserved for them a foot or more in width, which, in the event of its being planted with bulbs, might be mossed over, or have some evergreen twigs stuck into it till the bulbs came up. For this purpose many plants could be used as groundworks and panel plants. For instance, a permanent bed may be formed of *Erica carnea*, which flowers throughout the winter and spring, with such a graceful plant as *Yucca recurva pendula* for panel plants; but as many such beds will be illustrated in a subsequent chapter, it is unnecessary to dwell more on them here—a few illustrations teaching this matter more fully and intelligently than words can.

CHAPTER XV.

ARRANGEMENT OF COLOURS.

IT is probably a better understood, and in some respects an easier, matter to propagate and cultivate the necessary stock of plants to fill up a flower-garden, than to arrange them according to the laws of colour, so as to produce effects that will satisfy the eye of taste. In many instances, even those who are best versed in the principles which ought to guide the gardener in this important matter have difficulties to contend with which are unknown to the most intelligent colour-theorist. One of those difficulties—and one that is not very easily overcome—arises out of the varieties of height and habit of the plants, which are to the gardener what paints are to the painter. Another very formidable one has often to be dealt with, in the unsuitableness of many garden designs, especially in the case of those where the beds are very large and too close together; or, what is equally unfavourable, they may be long and narrow, and much too near the points from which they can be critically viewed. Under such circumstances, it is not unfrequently most difficult to apply the principles of either harmony or contrast of colours, and at the same time give essential prominence to symmetry.

Modification is therefore forced upon the gardener; and consequently very much depends on good taste and long and careful observation in combining plants of various heights, and in dealing with designs which are unsuitable for purely scientific arrangement. But, at the same time, there are few places—not even excepting the single bed of the cottager, or small group of the villa—which do not afford an opportunity to some extent for a definite system of arrangement. A single bed in an isolated position may be made to display the effects

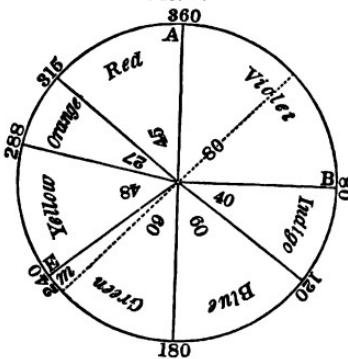
of either harmony or contrast, or both, in flower-gardening; and even where such difficulties as I have named exist, there is no doubt, as I have previously remarked, that glaring errors are to be avoided only by having a knowledge of the simple elementary principles which govern the harmony and contrast of colours. Experienced practitioners have generally by them a plentiful store of notes, carefully made in former years when the flowers were in their prime. Each combination of plants that, though not strictly according to scientific dicta, has been chaste and pleasing, has been carefully noted; and the planting of a flower-garden becomes to such a matter of much more ease and certainty than to the less experienced. But it is impossible to apply individual practice to a great variety of circumstances and designs, and for that reason theory is here of more than usual importance.

Arrangement of Colours according to the Law of Contrast.—The experiment of admitting a ray of sunlight through an aperture into a dark room, and after it enters the apartment making it pass through a triangular glass prism on to a white wall at the opposite side of the room, analyses the light, and shows us the various colours of which it is composed. Immediately on passing through the prism it is dispersed, and forms on the wall an oblong figure of seven different colours. This is, in fact, light analysed, and its component parts shown, analogous to the way a chemist acts upon matter. Newton, the great philosopher, has denominated these seven colours simple or homogeneous.

The better to understand the arrangement and relation of these prismatic colours, let them be printed on a circular card in the order and proportion exhibited by the prismatic spectrum and rainbow. The annexed diagram is the usual way of illustrating this arrangement. The circle is divided into 360 degrees, which allows space for each colour in the same proportion as in the spectrum — namely, violet, 80° ; indigo, 40° ; blue, 60° ; green, 60° ; yellow, 48° ; orange, 27° ; red, 45° .

Here we have the simple prismatic colours arranged in the same order and proportions as are demonstrated by the pris-

FIG. 2.



matic experiment, only in a circular instead of an oblong form, in which latter, as produced by the prismatic rays, violet forms one extreme and red the other. Red, blue, and yellow have been termed the three primary colours, because the others can be produced by mixing these three in different proportions. And it will be observed that the other colours—violet, indigo, green, and orange—are intermediate in their arrangement in the spectrum.

Now, in order to ascertain correctly which are the contrasting colours, we shall take violet; and wishing to find its contrasting colour, we have only to find out which colour is directly opposite to it on the diagram; and omitting the space occupied by violet, we have the arc A E B, whose centre is the point *m* in green, but near to yellow, which determines that the contrasting colour to violet is green with a little yellow mixed, or bluish green: and so on, by drawing a line from the centre of each colour to the centre of the remaining arc—the end of the diametric line—determines the contrasting colour.

M. Buffon a good many years ago made a very interesting discovery, which is practically very useful, and very closely approaches in correctness the diagram principle in determining the colours which contrast. He discovered that if a wafer be placed on a white sheet of paper, and gazed steadily at for a few seconds, and then the eye removed to another part of the paper, a spectrum of the same size as the wafer and of its contrasting colour is seen. The spectra are, however, rendered more distinct when the wafers are looked at on a dark ground, and the eye then directed to a white ground. This simple fact is the reason why black printing is more comfortably and easily read on a white ground than red, for red would have a contrasting green spectrum floating before the eye on a white ground; white being the contrast to black, the spectrum is prevented in such a combination. By this simple process, as well as by the aid of the diagram, the colours at the disposal of the flower-gardener can be arranged according to the law of contrast. The following is a table of the colours and their contrasts:—

Black,	White.	Green,	Reddish violet.
White,	Black.	Blue,	Orange.
Red,	Green.	Indigo,	Orange yellow.
Orange,	Blue.	Violet,	Bluish green.
Yellow,	Indigo.		

These are the contrasting colours as determined according to

Buffon's spectrum discovery ; and it will be found that these results closely correspond with those determined by the rules of the diagram. The merest tyro will find the application of these rules of great service in the arrangement of flowers on the principle of contrast. Of course there are intermediate shades to be dealt with, not embraced by the colours included in the spectrum ; and just in proportion as these shades approach the various prismatic colours, so must the rules be modified and applied. Buffon's system can always be resorted to as a guide sufficiently correct for all practical purposes, and, if followed as closely as the various shades and different heights of plants will allow, cannot fail to be of great service in flower-garden arrangements.

In coming to the practical application of these rules, some may perhaps find that it is not so easy as at first appears to deal with colours which do not exactly agree with those of the prism ; nevertheless, the rules still hold good, and can be applied with more or less of a decided result. In order to illustrate this, take one or two of our most popular grouping plants which have not a facsimile in our table of contrasting colours. Take, for instance, Purple King Verbena, which may be described as a reddish blue. Looking at the prismatic colours, this approaches nearest to blue ; it is blue with a shade of red in it, the contrasting colour to which is green and orange. The blue being in the ascendant in the Verbena, the contrasting plant must have orange in the ascendant as the contrast to blue ; but the red in the purple demands a greenish shade, and consequently the contrasting plant must be a greenish yellow, such as we have in *Calceolaria amplexicaulis* and *C. hysopifolia*, &c.

Then if we take an orange yellow, such as *Calceolaria aurea floribunda*, or *Tagetes signata pumila*, we have orange yellow, or yellow with a shade of red, requiring for a contrast a greenish blue, and which is most nearly supplied in *Lobelia erinus speciosa*.

Our nearest approach to black is supplied by such plants as *Perilla nankinensis*, *Coleus*, Beet, and a few others. Now if we describe them as reddish black, the contrast of this is greenish white, and this is supplied by such plants as *Koniga variegata*, *Dactylis glomerata variegata*, variegated *Pelargoniums*, &c.

From these illustrations it can be seen in how thoroughly practical a way the elementary rules can be applied. It is because of the law of contrast that the flowers of a scarlet

Pelargonium are much more distinctly striking in the case of those varieties which have a dark green leaf without any variegation or zone, because green is the contrast to red.

The most accommodating colour for contrasting with others, with considerable distinctness, is white, or very light grey, such as Cerastium tomentosum, Centaureas, and Cineraria maritima,—all of which may be used as a contrast to all strong colours, such as crimson, bronzy crimson, deep scarlets, blues, and deep purples.

Arrangement of Colours according to the Law of Harmony.—Colours are said to harmonise when different shades blend insensibly into each other. This is easily detected by any one who has a perception of, or, as it is generally termed, an eye for colour. Harmonising colours can be as readily determined by the use of the diagram which has been given in order to show those that contrast. That which harmonises with any original colour is always next the original, and between it and the contrasting colour, in the order of the diagram. Following out this, it will be seen that red is the harmonising colour to orange, blue to violet, yellow to white—and so on.

Practically speaking, harmonising colours are considered more easily detected than those which contrast. Take, for instance, red or scarlet, dark pink, pale pink, and white, and place them in the order named, and a pleasing harmony from red down to white is the result. The transition is gentle and beautiful—something like a plaintive melody in music. Then, again, take a purple-flowering plant with a shade of red in it, and place it near a crimson, or let a golden-leaved Pelargonium be associated with some of our lovely silvery-foliaged plants, and a most delicate and pleasing harmony is produced.

These examples are enough to show what is conveyed by the term harmony of colours; and there are few things that afford more pleasure to an eye, however slightly trained to colour, than the contemplation of the soft gradations that may be worked out in a bed of flowers associated according to the principle of harmony. It is somewhat degrading to the art to look upon it merely as a means of embellishment capable of only tickling the eye.

Harmony and contrast may be illustrated with charming effect in one bed. What, for instance, can be more lovely than a centre of yellow, with a corresponding zone of white, finished off with a fringe of blue or purple? The two centre colours harmonise, while the blue contrasts. Or if two contrasting

colours—yellow and blue—are mixed in the centre of a bed, and edged with red, which harmonises with the orange, the effect is very fine. In filling a bed with three colours in distinct zones, the two harmonising colours should be in the centre, and the contrasting colour as a margin. This principle of planting is particularly applicable to an isolated place, because the eye comprehends and grasps the design better with the soft colour in the centre than at the margin. With a strong colour for a centre, the eye is tyrannically attracted to the weight of heavy colouring.

One of the most effective combinations of this mixed principle in one bed that I ever saw was the key-bed of a large design. The centre was of variegated Pelargonium, with a zone of golden-leaved Pelargonium. So far this was harmony. Then there was a border 5 feet wide, all round the bed, of Gazania splendens and blue Lobelia mixed, and a fringe round all of dwarf Scarlet Pelargonium. At intervals of 8 feet, in the centre of the border of Gazania and Lobelia, were single plants of Centaurea ragusina. In this composition the variegated Pelargonium harmonised with the golden Pelargonium, the golden Pelargonium contrasted with the blue, and the fringe of scarlet harmonised with the orange, while the Centaurea contrasted with the blue, and was in harmony with the orange. There was a repose and beauty in this gigantic bed which required a practised eye to discover and appreciate, and it was exceedingly suitable as a key or centre bed, which should always be soft and quiet.

General Remarks on the Planting of Beds and Groups of Beds.—When plants of various heights and habits have to be dealt with, the symmetry of the bed must not be sacrificed, even in deference to the laws of colour, which certain plants will set at defiance. Taste must in such cases step in and take the place of the rigid rule of science; but it requires much observation and practice to avoid incongruous arrangements. The late Dr Lindley once wrote some articles in the 'Gardeners' Chronicle,' contending that symmetry was of greater importance than any arrangement of colours, and pointed to the capricious ways in which nature arranged various colours in individual flowers. But he might also have pointed to many combinations which are in accordance with the recognised principles of harmony and contrast—even to the "crimson-tipped Daisy," with its yellow disc and white zone in beautiful harmony, and

its crimson tips—in illustration of the principles both of contrast and harmony. To a certain extent the learned Doctor was correct, but it would be a sad sacrifice to accept his position as a rule.

Where plants are of various heights, and when it is desirable to associate a dwarfer and taller plant in one bed, much can be done towards achieving this successfully, by throwing a portion of the soil from that part of the bed or border where the taller things are to be planted on to the space designed for the dwarfer. I frequently resort to this rather than sacrifice an arrangement. As a general rule, however, the taller plants should be put in the largest beds, and *vice versa*; and all beds exceeding 12 or 14 feet in diameter should be planted with two or more colours, in order to relieve the heavy masses of colour; and, as already referred to, the strongest colours should be at the margin, in the case of isolated beds particularly. In planting a group of beds on the complementary principle, the centre or key bed should never be the most brilliant, as it is often made. The stronger colours should be towards the extremities of the design; for, as any one who has studied the matter knows, with soft tones towards the centre, and bright ones towards the outside, the eye takes in, and the mind can master, the design much better than with the bold colours at the centre.

All geometrical designs should have each corresponding bed planted not only with the same colours, but with the same plants, if possible; otherwise a jar will be produced, and that unity of expression which should characterise all such designs will be destroyed.

Regarding the question as to where the principles of harmony and contrast are most in keeping, it is my opinion—and I have arrived at the conclusion after much observation—that for a single bed, or small groups of beds, in a quiet sequestered spot, where the design has to be studied close to the eye, a gaudy contrasting picture should be avoided, and the harmonising principle adopted. This may sound strange to some who see naught in what we are discussing but a stare, much as the woodman sees a stick where the poet beholds a tree of beauty; but there is something more than a stare in a harmonious group of flowers in a quiet nook,—there is a calm benignant beauty which goes directly to the heart. On the other hand, where the garden extends over a wide expanse, and has to be studied from a distant point, or where there are long stretches

of borders, there must be a measure of boldness and distinctness. Here every line and figure should live and sparkle with expression, or it will not be easy to follow out and appreciate the length and breadth of the design, as if it were a small picture under the eye. Not only must there be concentration and distinction given to the chief parts of such a garden, but every minor detail must have its unity also; and for this purpose the planting must be executed to be viewed principally from some particular points.

Generally speaking, in planting groups of beds, the mixing of different colours in one bed is not to be recommended, although some mixtures judiciously relieved are very lovely in themselves when closely viewed; and even as groundworks, some mixtures are very effective when relieved with panels and edgings of distinct colours. In planting long borders, I have a great objection to nibbling them up into fantastic little beds, with gravel walks between the figures. For effect, an entire surface in flowers, with relieving graceful specimen plants, is preferable; and even then, the more simple the design, if properly apportioned and balanced, the better. When the entire surface is thus devoted to flowers, a greater facility for yearly change of design and arrangement is afforded.

In the case of long stretches of borders to be planted entirely with flowers on the grouping principle, the panel system of planting, which I believe I was the first to practise in long borders, is preferable to the bald and uniform ribbon system. The chief feature of panel-planting consists in having a groundwork of one colour, relieved with panels of plants entirely distinct from the groundwork, which should, to be effective, be bounded by distinct lines. The panels may consist of a group of plants slightly elevated above the groundwork, or of one large specimen plant; or they may consist of the two combined,—that is, a panel with a taller and fine-foliaged plant in its centre. In this way variety and interest are given, and greater variety of design can be carried out; and by using graceful-foliaged plants for panels, or in the centre of panels, the monotony which is to some extent chargeable to ribboning is relieved.

In the case of many gardens composed of large beds too closely packed together on gravel, it gives variety and relief to otherwise too heavy masses if a specimen of any tall graceful-foliaged plant is set in the middle of each bed, and zoned off with an appropriate colour. Specimens of this kind give relief

to unwieldy designs, such as many a gardener has to deal with.

A promiscuous collection of herbaceous and other flowering plants should never be planted in any number of the beds which form part of a geometric group, with the remainder of the beds planted in distinct masses of colour. When it is desirable to carry out the mixed-border system, and circumstances render it a matter of necessity to locate them not far from those beds or borders which are planted in groups, they should, if possible, occupy the boundary of the garden, and be divided from the others by a breadth of either gravel or grass, or both, to prevent the one style from clashing with the other. If, however, it be possible to devote distinct and entirely separate positions to the two systems, all the better : the one does not then interfere with the other, and they form a pleasing variety and relief to the mind. Besides this, the parterre borders can be filled up for either winter or spring, without interfering with the herbaceous plants.

To prevent being misunderstood in the foregoing remarks on the arrangement of flowering plants of various colours in beds and borders, it may be well to state that so many fantastic beds, cut out geometrically or otherwise, on a space of grass or gravel, and filled with flowers, do not constitute my ideal of a flower-garden, not even though in outline they embrace all the standard "lines of beauty." My aim here is to assist the inexperienced in properly arranging various colours in beds and borders as *one* of the objects on which depends the beauty of a flower-garden, and one which lies more strictly within the province of the practical gardener than any other matter that belongs to flower-gardens in general. To give rules for the laying out of a flower-garden in its entirety does not range within the design of this work, although groups of beds and borders which are considered necessary to practically illustrate the principles which have here been laid down are given. After all, the disposition of flowering plants must be looked upon as the crowning touch of dress to a flower-garden ; and the talent that can elaborate the flowery part of a garden may justly claim to rank side by side with that which produces a garden where flowers can be disposed of to advantage, and which is yet beautiful when not tricked out in holiday attire. Some flower-gardens are in themselves essentially paltry, and any amount of flowers will not make them pleasing, not even in combination with contortions of pounded bricks or glass.

To decorate such malformations with flowers is much like placing jewellery on a corpse. They are in such cases flowers in deep mourning, or degraded by being disassociated from their proper allies.

In large domains where there are heavy boundary lines of graceful vegetation, I cannot join with those who object to heavier masses, or even long level borders of flowering plants, provided such be relieved with plants of graceful forms and gentler hues, but not mixed up into one unmeaning jumble, which, whether viewed from an eminence or from a distant point, looks like a garden gone mad; or as if the genius of confusion had culminated in sowing broadcast, and in awful mixture, the whole world of Alpine, herbaceous, and annual plants. Order, principle, and taste should make manifest that a flower-garden is emphatically a work of art.

CHAPTER XVI.

ARRANGEMENT AND PLANTING OF BEDS AND GROUPS OF BEDS.

HAVING entered with considerable minuteness into the consideration of the principles which I conceive should guide the flower-gardener in the arrangement or grouping of flowering plants in geometrical designs, it will be the less needed to enter very extensively into the practical details of the subject. In conjunction with what has already been advanced, a few practical illustrations of planting the groups of beds which have been prepared specially for this object for the various seasons of the year will, we conceive, be quite sufficient to illustrate the principles already treated of. Besides the planting of these as distinct groups, each bed of which relatively bears upon its fellow, a good many ways will be shown for planting effectively single beds and borders.

It has already been stated that it is not a part of our present object to enter into the laying out of gardens and grounds in their entirety. The designs here furnished are principally intended to serve the purpose of showing how to plant geometrical gardens effectively. The designs are, however, submitted as indicative of what, to my mind, is well adapted for carrying out the style of flower-gardening which has for its especial feature combinations of flowering plants. The lines are, on the one hand, removed from the stiffness and formality of what may be termed the Chinese-puzzle style; and, on the other, from the minute twirlings and contortions which, however well they may look to the inexperienced planter, have been appropriately termed "gardening on tea-trays." The fine intricacies of expert compass work, as every practical flower-gardener knows, are most difficult to deal with satisfactorily in the garden.

Design No. 1 is the only one which I have furnished with surroundings ; and I have done this in order to show how a small piece of ground, which may be the sole area available for flower-gardening, may be disposed of as a united whole, affording scope for variety, while each part at the same time helps to enhance the beauty and interest of the others. It is alike suitable for having the centre group of nineteen beds in a sunk panel, while the surrounding circles are on a terrace above, and all surrounded with a shrubbery. The group is supposed to be suitable for either grass or gravel as a groundwork. Although exceedingly partial to the softening influence of the green, there is no doubt that colours and plants suitable for beds of this description are more telling and effective on gravel ; and the harmony and contrasts existing between their various forms and colours are more largely neutralised on a verdant groundwork, than when separated by a quiet-coloured gravel.

In first considering how such a cluster of beds as is represented by this design is to be planted, and in arriving at a tolerably accurate conclusion as to the effect certain colours will produce, I would strongly recommend a simple method that I adopt, and which no brush-colouring, however cleverly executed, can approach for correctness. First, let the walks or groundwork be coloured, if it be gravel, as nearly as possible the same as it exists in the garden when in a high state of keeping, and then colour the beds of a verdant green colour throughout. On this green, which is designed to represent the foliage of the plants, strew a few petals of the flowers, leaving green dots uncovered here and there. This will give an idea of what the plants look like when in bloom in the beds—much more correct and natural than can be given by water-colouring.

In planting such a design as this, which is strictly geometric, and constructed on the principle of concentric rings, the first thing that claims consideration is, whether it has mostly to be viewed, studied, and enjoyed from a somewhat distant point, or close to or under the eye. This, in my opinion, ought to decide whether the planting should be executed on the principles of harmony or of contrast. If to be viewed close to the eye, to plant it in strong contrasts will undoubtedly make it striking. But it will crash and thunder upon the eye and mind, much as a railway galop would upon the ear when thundered out by a brass band and kettle-drums in a room. The mind that does not long enjoy harshness would soon wish

that the garden should be moved away to some extent, or wish to get sufficiently removed from it to have its harshness toned down by intervening space.

Those who have not trained their eye to grouping of this sort, nor studied the matter, would not unlikely be very much struck with strong contrasts, viewed ever so near; much the same as the rustic's untrained ear would appreciate, notwithstanding the harshness which only distance could overcome, the thundering performance of the brass band. Planted on the harmonic principle, it can be studied with growing enjoyment. It would then stream upon the eye like the mellow tones of the lute; and the longer we contemplate it, the more beautiful it would appear. When near to the eye, harmony should prevail.

But to plant for distinct and more distant effect, and if the mind is to appreciate all its lines and hues with anything like distinctness, every line of it must be laid down on the rule of strong contrast. This, for the design to be distinctly enjoyed from a distant point, is indispensable. The distance sufficiently softens down its hard tones.

And looking at the group as designed on the principle of concentric rings, the same principle, to be most effective in the distance, must be strictly adhered to, especially when viewed from an elevated point. It, however, affords an opportunity of planting on the triangular principle—as will be illustrated presently—which, although very effective, and well worth adopting occasionally, falls short of the effectiveness of that which is in more rigid harmony with the design, although the triangular principle affords room for greater variety of plants, which is an object, supposing this were all or the chief part of a flower-garden.

The following are some of the ways in which these remarks can be practically illustrated:—

Design No. 1.

Bed No. 1.—Any of the yellow or orange-yellow Calceolarias enumerated in the list given, such as Gem; or *Viola Perpetual Yellow*. If the latter be used, edge it with a band of blue *Lobelia* 18 inches wide. The Calceolaria being a taller grower, requires a taller-growing edging; and *Verbena Purple King* contrasts very well. Dark-foliaged plants, such as *Perilla*, *Iresine Lindenii*, and, where it does well, *Coleus Verschaffeltii*, and the dark *Alternanthera*, contrast well with the yellows.

2, 2, 2, 3, 3.—Planting on the principle of concentric rings, these should be planted all the same; and, to contrast with the yellow, No. 1—for lasting autumnal effect, and especially if No. 1 be edged with blue *Lobelia*—choice would fall upon *Verbena venosa*, where it does well. But *Verbena Purple King*, or purple *Intermediate Stock*, would do very well. The

edging to these six beds, to be a contrast to the centre if purple, is a greenish-yellow or white, which also contrasts moderately with the edging of No. 1, and so gives distinctness on either or both sides. This we have supplied in variegated Pelargoniums—gold and silver—and Polemonium *caeruleum variegatum*, and perhaps best of all, Pyrethrum Golden Feather. The centre bed being yellow, we should here prefer the silver varieties, such as Mangles', with pale pink flowers, or Flower of Spring; and Dactylis *glomerata variegata* and Koniga *variegata* would also answer.

- 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5.—Variegated Pelargoniums having a pale pink flower, such as Mangles' Variegated, or Flower of Spring; here Ageratum Swanley Blue, one of the finest bright dwarf lavender colours we have, or Viola *cornuta Perfection*, an excellent edging plant, would come in effectively for a band to these light beds. Iresine or any strong contrasting colour, to show off the light centre, would answer well.
- 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, being the boundary beds, should be planted with a bright colour, such as Pelargonium Henry Jacoby, probably the finest bedding variety in existence. P. Violet Hill, or some crimson variety such as Rev. F. Atkinson, coming in contact with both the purple and the pink or light colours in front and on either side, it would be difficult to say whether the crimson or scarlet shade should be placed in these beds. Our own inclination would lead to Henry Jacoby as the type of a good bedding habit; but any of the green-leaved crimson sorts would also be appropriate. If a green-foliaged variety be chosen, and especially if a crimson dark-foliaged plant be used for edging to beds 4 and 5, we would use Ageratum Imperial Dwarf; but if it be placed as an edging to the light beds, Cerastium *tomentosum*, or any of the dwarf light-foliaged plants, would come in admirably.

Planted in this way, the design would be very expressive when viewed from a distance, and every line in it could be distinctly appreciated. If the centre bed No. 1, which is purposely shown of sufficient width to admit of a centrical object, such as a vase, or statue, or fountain, have such an object in it, the yellow would then be lighter, and the band of blue should not be more than 1 foot wide. Supposing that there is no permanent object as a centre, a graceful specimen plant about 3 feet high would come in well, such as *Yucca recurva pendula*, *Dracaena indivisa*, or *D. australis*. Then, to correspond with this, every bed should have an appropriate specimen. In the centre, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, we would place a single plant of *Yucca aloifolia variegata*. In 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, a nicely-grown specimen of India-rubber plant, or *Coleus Verschaffeltii*, or even *Perilla*, would come in effectively; and in the Scarlet Pelargonium beds, a specimen or a dwarf plant of *Acer Negundo variegatum* or *Centaurea ragusina*, raised so as just to allow its lower leaves to rest on the surface of the Pelargoniums, would do remarkably well. These centre objects must not be too high, or they will obstruct the outline of the design when viewed from a distance, and especially if the point of view be of the same level: from $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the surface of the yellow in the

centre bed, sloping down to little more than a foot above the outside Pelargonium beds, is sufficiently high for a design of this extent.

Objection may be made to this concentric principle of planting, that it does not allow of much variety of plants. This is readily admitted; but it is not recommended to be followed out every year in succession, especially if this group be supposed to be the only one in the grounds. It is, nevertheless, by far the most appropriate and striking principle of planting, and particularly to be recommended, if other parts of a flower-garden afford scope for a variety of planting. More variety can, however, be easily imparted to it, without any violation of principle. By putting the edgings that have been recommended 18 or 20 inches in width, and finishing next the walk with a thinner streak of colour, a thin line of Cerastium put as an edging to the blue in No. 1; a band of crimson Verbena round the light band in bed 2's and 3's; an edge of Pyrethrum Golden Feather or orange Gazania splendens round the Viola Perfection, or Ageratum, or dark-foliaged bands of 4's and 5's; and with Viola or Ageratum as a band for 6's and 7's, then an edging of Cerastium, Ageratum, or Yellow Viola, would be suitable.

To plant effectually such a garden as this with plants that require much less trouble to propagate and grow them well, may be an object of considerable importance to many. We are not, however, presuming just now that this applies to those who have not a glass-house and pit or frame or two at command. A splendid effect may be very cheaply produced by filling the beds as follows:—

- Bed No. 1.*—*Tagetes signata pumila*; banded with purple Intermediate Stock, Dell's crimson Beet, or Ageratum edged with *Koniga variegata* or *Cerastium tomentosum*.
- 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3.—Purple Stock, *Ageratum mexicanum*, or *Nepeta teucriifolia*: banded with *Dactylis glomerata variegata*; edged with dwarf Scarlet Pelargonium.
- 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5.—White Intermediate Stock; banded with *Tropaeolum coccineum* (scarlet), or with *Nepeta teucriifolia*, or *Viola the Tory*; and edged with *Arabis mollis variegata* or *Stachys lanata*.
- 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7.—We are loath to give up the Scarlet Pelargonium here; but as Verbenas take less room and potting, &c., say Crimson King Verbena; banded with Golden Pyrethrum or Chrysanthemum Sensation kept pegged or pinched; and edged with purple Viola or *Nepeta teucriifolia*, according as either of these two plants is used for the bands in 4's and 5's.
- As centre plants, the hardy *Yucca recurva pendula* can be used in No. 1; a Queen Holly in 2's and 3's; a Love-lies-bleeding in 4's and 5's; and in 6's and 7's a silver variegated Holly or golden Yew.

The whole of the plants used in this composition are such as are easily grown: some of them are perfectly hardy, and none

of them are of delicate constitution. At the same time, they are all effective plants for compositions of this description, and are only the types of many others which are easily available.

Another very effective way of planting group No. 1, and still arranging on the principles of contrast, is as follows :—

- Bed No. 1.*—*Centaurea ragusina* or *Cineraria maritima*; edged with—where it does well—*Coleus Verschaffeltii*. *Iresine* or *Beet* are good substitutes for *Coleus*, where the climate is not favourable.
- 2, 2, 2.—Yellow *Calceolaria*; edged with purple *Verbena*, blue *Ageratum*, or purple *Viola*.
- 3, 3, 3.—Purple *Verbena*, or purple Intermediate Stock; edged with golden-leaved *Pelargonium*. A light pink, such as *Constance*, also makes a very distinct edging to purple.
- 4, 4, 4.—Variegated (silver) *Pelargonium*, with cerise flowers, such as *Flower of Spring*; edged with blue *Lobelia*.
- 5, 5, 5.—Pink *Pelargonium*, edged with a bronzy crimson *Calceolaria*, such as *C. ambassador*.
- 6, 6, 6.—*Tropaeolum Mrs Ellis*, orange scarlet; edged with blue *Lobelia speciosa*.
- 7, 7, 7.—A dark crimson *Pelargonium*, such as *David Thomson*, edged with variegated *Dactylis*.

This is a very effective way of planting such a design as this. The whole of the complementary beds—that is, those beds that are planted alike—are in 3's, and form triangles in the group. Banding and edging each bed, as suggested in the former way of planting it, can be followed up if desired,—so also can the relieving specimen plants; but in this case, of course, in 3's or triangles, according as the beds are planted.

To plant on the principle of harmony, which has been recommended when to be studied and enjoyed close to the eye, the following are arrangements which are very pleasing and chaste :—

- Bed No. 1.*—Orange-yellow *Calceolaria*; edged with a Rose *Pelargonium*.
- 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3.—*Centaurea ragusina*; edged with golden *Pelargonium* or *Pyrethrum Golden Feather*. Pink also makes a very fine harmony with white or grey.
- 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5.—*Pelargonium Mrs Turner*; edged with *Pelargonium Henry Jacoby*.
- 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7.—Scarlet *Pelargonium Mrs Turner* or *Vesuvius*; edged with golden *Pelargonium*.

If it be desired to plant on the principle of three colours in a bed, the plants recommended here for edging can be made into wider bands, and edging lines put round each bed. *Mrs Ellis* or *Pelargonium* band may have an edging of Crimson King *Verbena*; golden *Pelargonium*, of *Tropaeolum Vesuvius*, or, as an exceedingly quiet harmony, *Gazania splendens*, orange yellow; *Constance* band may be edged with a crimson *Pelargonium*; and the golden *Pelargonium* banding the outside beds

may have an edging of *Cerastium*. Thus each concentric ring is in harmony, from the yellow in the centre, up through the white or grey to pink and scarlet, and the edgings are made to harmonise with the beds. This style produces an exceedingly soft combination of colours, and though not so startling at first, has beauty in it which, as it reveals itself to the attentive observation of the onlooker, heightens the more it is studied. To produce a more bold effect, but yet one that is much softened and subdued, as compared to that recommended for distant effect, we would recommend the centres of each bed to contrast the one with the other, while the bands and edgings harmonised with whatever formed their own centres.

For instance, preserving the body of each bed as recommended in the first arrangement described for this group of beds, the band and edging could harmonise with its own centre thus:—

- Bed No. 1.*—Orange; banded with orange-scarlet; edged with scarlet or red.
- 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3.—Purple; banded red; and finished with dark crimson.
- 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5.—Variegated Pelargonium; banded with pink; and finished with rosy purple.
- 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7.—Scarlet; banded with orange; and finished with white or grey.

Another way of planting, which some might prefer, is—

- Bed No. 1.*—Pink, edged with purple, if for contrast; for harmony, scarlet or white.
- 2, 2, 2.—Pale yellow, edged with dark-foliaged plants, if for contrast; for harmony, orange.
- 3, 3, 3.—Violet or purple, edged with silver-foliaged Pelargonium, for contrast; for harmony, with crimson Verbena.
- 4, 4, 4.—Scarlet Pelargonium, edged with golden Pelargonium, for contrast; for harmony, with rosy-purple Pelargonium.
- 5, 5, 5.—Rose Pelargonium, edged with Perilla or Coleus, for contrast; for harmony, with crimson or pale pink.
- 6, 6, 6.—Blue Lobelia or Ageratum Imperial Blue, edged with Gazania splendens for contrast; for harmony, with white Lobelia.
- 7, 7, 7.—Variegated Pelargonium, edged with dark-foliaged plant, such as Beet, for contrast; for harmony, with Cineraria maritima or Centaurea ragusina.

Such arrangements as these are a compromise between the two principles; and while the centre of each bed has a boldness distinct from its fellows, the harmonic lines with which it is surrounded take off the hardness, so that this is perhaps the finest principle of the three; for besides the mellow notes, we have the heavy bold bass tones as well.

It will at once be observed that, in planting this group, each corresponding bed, according as it is planted on the concentric or triangular system, is planted not only with the same colour,

but with the same plants. It can easily, and somewhat justly, be objected that such a way of planting excludes variety; but to any one who values the beauties of geometric design, we say that this repetition of the same thing cannot be departed from without violating the strictest and most fundamental principle of all geometric gardens. In the case of those who may only possess one such cluster of beds, and who have no other nook where a mixed style can be pursued, I would be the last to deny the charm of variety. But this group is supposed to form only part of a pleasure-garden; and in that case we would never recommend one bed to be planted with the charming *Centaurea ragusina* and edged with *Coleus Verschaffeltii*, and its corresponding bed to be of dirty white *Verbena* edged with *Perilla*.

It will also be noticed that the softer tones are kept towards the centre of the group, and the strong bright ones to the extremity. We hold this to be a very important matter where a design has to be viewed as a whole. Starting in the centre with a fiery dazzle, in spite of all efforts of the eye and mind, that strong stroke of colouring will bulk too conspicuously in the eye. Bright yellow, as supplied by the *Calceolaria*, *Tagetes*, &c., is a dangerous colour to use much of, and should be sparingly employed. In all such compositions the soft tones of the grey, golden, and chocolate or brown should be used, especially if many bright colours are introduced. Such plants as *Centaureas*, *Cineraria maritima*, silver-variegated and golden-variegated *Pelargoniums*, *Cerastium*, *Arabis*, gold and silver variegated, *Golden Feather Pyrethrum*, variegated *Polemonium*, and *Dactylis*, give lively subduing touches, like the sky background of a painting; and these are plants which have the additional recommendation of being less susceptible of injury from winds and rains than tender petals. The graceful single specimen in the centre of each bed is not recommended for small beds; but in larger beds they form elegant relieving objects, and are more desirable, planted on the single centre system, than more numerously dotted over the bed in a design of this sort, where distinctness of expression is of first-rate importance.

The plants named in these arrangements are taken as types of the others which are enumerated and described in the selections we have made and treated of. To show these in various relationships to others would occupy a volume unnecessarily. All that has been and shall be said generally

of this group of beds, so far as it refers to the others also, will not be repeated when showing how they may be planted in square, oblong, and other more simple groups.

The outside or boundary circles in design No. 1, which are represented as on grass embosomed in the bounding shrubbery, and separated from the geometric group by a broad walk, are intended to show how other interesting and beautiful phases of gardening can be introduced into one locality in a pleasure-garden, and which, though in themselves quite distinct, do not mar their respective effects; but instead of one phase violating the other, they heighten their individual beauty. It is not the fault of bedding plants nor bedding principles that other orders of plants have been excluded so much from our gardens; but the evil lies more in the fact that gardens have been and still are often designed so as to forbid the introduction of the one without clashing with the other, and that parterre-gardening is being carried out where it should never have been allowed a footing at all.

These outside circles—supposed to be embosomed in a surrounding shrubbery of such as Rhododendrons and other shrubs, the blooming season of which is mostly over by midsummer—may be most interesting in many ways; and the style of gardening adopted in them ought, in our opinion, to be decided by the question as to whether such a design as this forms the whole or chief flower-garden ground contained in any given place, to say nothing of the time of year when most interest is required in a garden. To plant or adorn these boundary beds after the same manner as the centre group, would be very undesirable. Supposing the shelter and the locality to be quite equal to the hardiest style of subtropical gardening, we would, so far as our own taste goes, turn every other circle into a conical rockery or mound, and plant it with such Alpines and succulents as are treated of elsewhere. The other circles we would plant with subtropicals, or such plants as are now included in that designation. This would afford the strong contrast that exists between the gigantic beauty of the vegetation of Australasia and the cooler parts of India, and the no less beautiful though more minute vegetation of the Alpine regions of Europe, with a few grotesque-looking succulent plants mixed in. Such as these would certainly not detract from the interest attached to them respectively, nor from their more brilliant rivals in the centre of the garden.

The Fern, the Palm, the Yucca, the Dracæna, the Ficus, &c.,

grouped in graceful combination in one bed, would be a noble relief to the rock-trailer and curious-looking succulent, the more tame foliage of the background, and the brilliant flowers in the centre groups of beds.

Or suppose the means at command do not admit of such tender plants, those whose taste runs in the direction of standard and dwarf Roses have here a most suitable locality for them; or if more classically inclined, these recesses can accommodate the statue and the vase alternately. The Hollyhock or the Dahlia would also have a suitable locality in such recesses; or a fine Conifer would not be an unseemly object, or any of the spiral forms of trees. Taste and circumstances should decide what feature to introduce in these places; but for beauty of vegetation, we would decidedly choose the Alpine and the fine-foliaged plants, especially if the grounds afforded scope for the other things elsewhere. As permanent objects of beauty all the year round, what could be more effective than such noble plants as *Yucca recurva pendula*, *Y. aloifolia variegata*, in such positions as these? And the latter, though the more tender of the two, will bear ten degrees of frost or more with impunity, with the slight protection of a hood of straw or mat.

But possibly, taking one season with the other, no more noble-looking object could be placed in such a position than the *Araucaria imbricata*, the *Cedrus deodara*, and some of the best of the other hardy Conifers. The things that would be appropriate are so numerous, that it may safely be left to taste whether it be the Conifer, the Standard or Pillar Rose, the Standard Rhododendron, or any of the forms of vegetation that have been named: only let them be planted in systematic order, and not as a medley, in such a design as this is a type of.

Speaking of vases which may be used for the embellishment of such a garden, alike as centre objects of all, round the margin of the centre group of beds, or in the centre of the boundary circle, it may be observed, that whatever plants are put in them, let them not be dumpy scarlet and yellow flowering plants: a common shrub would be preferable. But there are plenty of more suitable and elegant plants to choose from. These are Aloes, Yuccas, Dracaenas, hardy Palms, &c., all of which are sufficiently beautiful in outline to mark them out as appropriate, where outline, not colour, in a garden of this description should be chosen for vases. Then there might be

a strip or border in front of the surrounding background of evergreens, devoted to a choice selection of herbaceous plants. Admitting that there was no other more appropriate place for such, Delphiniums, Phloxes, Paeonias, and the more effective and persistent flowering herbaceous plants, would be very effective with a row or two of dwarfer subjects in select variety near the verge.

Design No. 2.

- Bed No. 1.*—White Intermediate Stock; banded with one of the dark-foliaged plants, such as Perilla, or Iresine, or purple Viola; edged with golden Pelargonium.
- 2, 2.—Pelargonium Mrs Turner or Constance; banded with purple Verbena or Viola Tory, and edged with Polemonium ceruleum variegatum.
- 3, 3, 4, 4.—Verbena venosa; banded with golden Pelargonium or variegated Dactylis; edged with crimson Verbena or Pelargonium.
- 5, 5.—Yellow Calceolaria or Viola; banded with Lobelia speciosa; edged with Tropaeolum Mrs Ellis.
- 6, 6, 7, 7.—Silver-variegated Pelargonium; banded with purple Viola; edged with golden Arabis or Thyme.
- 8, 8.—Gazania splendens; banded with blue Lobelia speciosa; edged with Tropaeolum coccineum or dark Alternanthera.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Scarlet Pelargonium; banded with Centaurea ragusina; edged with Henry Jacoby, Dell's crimson Beet, or, where Coleus succeeds, it is preferable.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Pink Pelargonium, such as Mrs Turner; banded with Pelargonium; edged with Dactylis glomerata variegata.
- 11, 11.—Crimson Verbena or Pelargonium, banded with golden Pelargonium or golden Thyme, edged with blue Lobelia.

This arrangement, as will be easily observed, is a contrasting one. The banding and edging are given as in the case of group No. 1; but for such small beds as some of these are—2, 3, 11, and 8, for example—two colours will be more appropriate than three, because, unless the band be a broad one, and still not so broad as the centre, it does not produce the effect obtainable in larger beds. By dropping the edgings, the group will remain complete.

Of course, instead of the plants named, others of similar colours and heights can be used where this is more convenient. The white Stocks can be very efficiently replaced by Centaurea ragusina, white Verbena, or even Cerastium or Koniga. Mrs Turner Pelargonium, though it can be replaced with Verbenas and Saponaria calabrica, is an effective colour. Violas can be put in instead of the golden, and Dactylis in place of the silver-variegated Pelargoniums, although it is not desirable to do so. Tagetes makes a good substitute for Calceolaria, and the purple Stock for Verbena venosa in soils where the latter does not succeed.

The groups may be planted as follows, still arranged to contrast:—

- 1.—Variegated Pelargonium Flower of Spring, or Mangles' ; edged with Crimson King Verbena. If a scarlet-flowering Pelargonium be used, the flowers should be picked off; Dactylis would do when variegated Pelargoniums could not be had.
- 2, 2.—Pelargonium Master Christine ; edged with Viola Perfection, or Ageratum, or purple Verbena.
- 3, 3, 4, 4.—Lobelia speciosa ; edged with Gazania splendens, or golden Arabis or golden Thyme.
- 5, 5.—Pink Pelargonium ; edged with Koniga variegata.
- 6, 6, 7, 7.—Yellow Calceolaria ; edged with Lobelia speciosa.
- 8, 8.—Verbena venosa, purple Stock, or Purple King Verbena ; edged with yellow Viola or golden Pelargonium.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Scarlet Pelargonium ; edged with Cerastium tomentosum, if the Pelargonium be any dwarf scarlet. If a tall variety be used, then Polemonium cæruleum variegatum or Koniga should be used instead of Cerastium.
- 11, 11.—Centaurea ragusina ; edged with Perilla, Coleus, or Iresine Herbstii.

To edge these beds with harmonising colours, the edgings may be as follows:—

- 1.—White Stock ; edged with pink or pale yellow.
- 2.—Rose Pelargonium ; edged with pink Pelargonium.
- 3, 3, 4, 4.—Verbena, purple or violet ; edged with Crimson King Verbena or crimson Pelargonium.
- 5, 5.—Yellow Calceolaria ; if of the orange shade, edged with Tropaeolum Vesuvius.
- 6, 6, 7, 7.—Silver-variegated Pelargonium ; edged with golden Pelargonium or Alyssum.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Dwarf scarlet Pelargonium ; edged with Gazania splendens or Golden Chain Pelargonium.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Pink Pelargonium ; edged with rose Verbena.
- 11, 11, 11, 11.—Crimson Verbena or Pelargonium ; edged with blue or purple, such as Viola or Ageratum.

When the beds are to be planted on the harmonising system, of course the same relationship of colour must be observed as in the case of an edging with the body of the bed. Blues and yellows and oranges must not be placed side by side. Purples and whites must be kept apart, by harmonising colours, and so forth.

Design No. 3.

This is rather an extensive group, or rather a series of groups, of beds, in the form of a parallelogram. Those who can afford space for such an extensive piece of garden are presumed to know pretty well how to deal with all descriptions of designs ; and consequently it may perhaps be only necessary to show how to plant it in one or two ways. So large a group calls more especially for distinctness in planting it, if it is to be effective and striking as a whole.

- 1.—*Centaurea ragusina*; edged with *Coleus Verschaffeltii* or *Iresine Herbstii*.
- 2, 2, 2, 2.—Pale-yellow *Calceolaria* or *Viola*; edged with blue *Lobelia*.
- 3, 3.—*Lobelia speciosa* or dwarf *Ageratum*; edged with *Gazania splendens*.
- 4, 4, 4, 4.—Dark-crimson *Pelargonium*; edged with *Dactylis glomerata* or *Cineraria maritima*.
- 5, 5, 5, 5.—Pink *Pelargonium*; edged with purple *Viola* or Purple King *Verbena*.
- 6, 6, 6, 6.—Scarlet *Pelargonium*; edged with *Cerastium tomentosum* or *Koniga variegata*.
- 7, 7, 7, 7.—Purple Intermediate Stocks; edged with any creamy variegated *Pelargonium*, such as *Crystal Palace Gem*.
- 8, 8, 8, 8.—Silver-variegated *Pelargonium*, such as *Flower of Spring*; edged with dark crimson-foliaged plant, such as have frequently been named already.
- 9, 9, 9, 9, 13, 13, 13, 13.—*Verbena venosa*; edged with white Intermediate Stocks, or any white.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Scarlet *Pelargonium*; edged with *Centaurea ragusina*.
- 11, 11.—Pink *Geranium*; edged with *Coleus* or *Iresine*, or crimson *Calceolaria*.
- 12, 12, 12, 12.—Orange *Calceolaria*; edged with purple *Verbena*, or, it may be, *Gazania* or *Viola*; edged with blue *Lobelia*.
- 14, 14, 14, 14.—Variegated *Pelargonium*; edged with *Viola Perfection*.
- 15, 15, 15, 15.—Crimson *Verbena*; edged with *Dactylis* or *Polemonium cæruleum variegatum*.
- 16, 16, 16, 16.—Silver-variegated *Pelargonium*; edged with *Perilla* or crimson Beet.

Another way of planting Design No. 3.

- 1.—Divide into four segments, two larger segments on each side towards beds 2, 2, 2, 2, the two smaller towards beds 3, 3. Let the dividing lines be of *Centaurea ragusina*, and plant those opposite to beds 2 with a dwarf crimson *Pelargonium*; and the segments opposite beds 3 with pink *Pelargonium*; the edging to the crimson to be gold; that to the pink to be purple or blue.
- 2, 2, 2, 2.—Variegated *Pelargonium*, such as *Flower of Spring* or *Mangles'*; edged with *Iresine Herbstii*, where it does well.
- 3, 3.—*Verbena venosa*; edged with *Crystal Palace Gem Pelargonium* or *Pyrethrurn Golden Feather*.
- 4, 4, 4, 4.—Scarlet *Pelargonium*; edged with a bronze *Zonale Pelargonium*, such as *Mrs Gumbleton*, or *Mrs Pollock* among tricolors.
- 5, 5, 5, 5.—*Coleus Verschaffeltii*; edged with *Centaurea ragusina*; or, where such plants do not succeed, put *Perilla* or *Iresine* in place of *Coleus*.
- 6, 6, 6, 6.—Pink *Pelargonium*; edged with purple *Viola* or dwarf *Ageratum*.
- 7, 7, 7, 7.—White Stock or *Centaurea*, or white *Verbena*; edged purple *Viola*.
- 8, 8, 8, 8.—Crimson *Verbena*; edged with *Polemonium cæruleum variegatum* or *Koniga variegata*.
- 9, 9, 9, 9, 13, 13, 13, 13.—Golden *Pelargonium*; edged with *Iresine Herbstii*.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Rose *Pelargonium*; edged with purple Stock, or any dark striking colour.
- 11, 11.—*Centaurea ragusina*; edged with *Coleus Verschaffeltii*: or white Stock; edged with crimson Beet or *Iresine*.
- 12, 12, 12, 12.—Blue *Lobelia*; edged with *Gazania splendens*.
- 14, 14, 14, 14.—Crimson *Pelargonium*; edged with *Dactylis glomerata variegata*.
- 15, 15, 15, 15.—Purple Stock or purple *Verbena*; edged with dwarf yellow *Calceolaria* or yellow *Viola*.
- 16, 16, 16, 16.—Scarlet *Pelargonium* or scarlet *Tropæolum*; edged with *Lobelia speciosa* or *Viola Perfection*.

If it be desired to put a band round these beds and then an

edging, it can easily be seen, from the former directions on this point, how to do it. In a large group, especially if a long one, it is not desirable to have too many colours in one bed, else it is more apt to breed confusion when the design comes to be studied; and boldness, when it has to be viewed from a distance, is here of more importance than in a small design.

VILLA GARDEN GROUP OF BEDS.

Design No. 4.

This is supposed to represent the front of a small villa residence, the occupier of which has a viney or greenhouse, or both, in which he can grow as many plants suited for summer flower-gardening as will fill the beds represented on the circle of grass. Or it may be the residence of one who, not having any glass-house, can and is disposed to purchase the necessary number of plants. The entrance is supposed to be close to a public road, and not more than sufficient for foot-passengers. The whole space is bounded by a wall, which is planted out or hidden by a strip of shrubs planted on the natural system of mixing evergreen, variegated, berry-bearing, and flowering deciduous shrubs, for the sake of both variety and elegance. The enclosed space, on which are represented a few beds, might be cut up into many shapes; but it is presumed that, by throwing the whole available ground into one open simple-shaped space, there is gained more room, light, and air for plants, while there is an appearance of extent and repose which the frittering up of such spaces of ground effectually destroys. The edging on the shrubbery side of the walk in such a place as this I would recommend to be of some of the fine Ivies, which will be found enumerated and described elsewhere. They are always beautiful, fresh, and glossy, not particular as to soil, and give much less trouble than either a box or grass verge.

The group of beds is on grass, and may be considered sufficient of this order of flower-gardening for a place of this extent. But should more beds be fancied, they can be introduced without any violation of the design, by shortening a little each of the four outside beds, and putting a small circle between each. But I recommend the simplicity of the group as represented.

The shrubbery is supposed to become narrower round the ends of the house, and to afford space for a mixed border of hardy perennial plants, &c.; or, where taste leads in the

direction of Ferns or rock-plants instead, there may be a rockery at one end, and a shady recess for Ferns at the other. Roses may be planted in conjunction with dwarf flowering shrubs, immediately behind the Ivy edging already referred to, so that there is no reason why the five simple beds in front of the residence should prevent the enjoyment of hardy flowering plants as well. Then, again, where fancy and taste lead in the direction of fine climbing-plants, the shrubbery may be of dwarfer-growing plants exclusively, and the wall in part devoted to evergreen plants suitable for covering walls.

The planting of the beds may be as follows :—

- Bed No. 1.*—Silver-variegated Pelargonium ; banded with *Gazania splendens* ; edged with blue Lobelia. If the Pelargonium be *Flower of Spring* or *Mangles' Variegated*, with their soft blooms and silver-edged leaves, the *Gazania* will be in harmony with it, and the blue Lobelia will give a dark banding line, to as it were gather in the eye and mind to the central softness and beauty of the bed.
- 2, 2.—Some purple shade, such as *Verbena Purple King*, *Ageratum* or *Viola*, where soil and climate suit it, or purple Stock, or any of the purplish shades of Pelargonium ; edged with pink, such as *Pelargonium Mrs Turner*.
- 3, 3.—Brilliant scarlet, such as *Pelargonium Henry Jacoby*, or *P. Vesuvius*,—the two best ones for amateurs ; edged with golden Pelargonium, Golden Feather Pyrethrurn, or one of the dwarf yellow Violas.

Another way of planting :—

Divide the circle 1 into four segments by running a line of *Perilla nankinensis* or crimson Beet across it, and then another line of the same across at right angles. Each of these four segments looks in the direction of one of the outside beds. Plant both segments looking towards 2, 2 alike with pink Pelargonium, and the other two with orange-yellow Calceolaria. Edge the orange-yellow with *Viola Tory*, and the pink with crimson Verbena. This makes a striking and varied bed.

- 2, 2.—Opposite the pink, plant with crimson Pelargonium, and edge it with *Saponaria calabrica* ; or *Dactylis glomerata variegata* will do very well.
- 3, 3.—Opposite the orange-yellow in the centre bed, plant with a silver-edged scarlet-flowered Pelargonium, such as *Flower of Spring*. But if these are not easily obtained, *Koniga variegata*, slightly mixed with scarlet Verbena, will do very well ; edged with blue Lobelia, purple Viola, or *Ageratum*.

To plant them effectively with much less costly plants :—

- 1.—Blue Lobelia mixed with *Gazania* ; edged with *Cerastium tomentosum*.
- 2, 2.—*Saponaria calabrica* ; edged with *Viola Perfection*.
- 3, 3.—Crimson King Verbena ; edged with golden Thyme.

Our own taste would lead us to plant a graceful but not too spreading shrub in the centre bed 1, such as a golden Queen or silver Holly, or a *Cupressus Lawsoniana* with its green glaucous leaves ; a golden Yew in 2, 2 ; and in 3, 3 an upright-growing Juniper, or even a common Irish Yew or Chinese Arbor-vitæ. The centre plant should not be over 6 feet high, and the outside

ones 4½ feet. These would not interfere with the display of flowering plants, and would afford some relief to the flatness of the space. If a *Dracæna australis* could be procured for bed No. 1, a *Yucca aloifolia variegata* for beds 2, 2, and a *Yucca recurva pendula* for 3, 3, it would be the very perfection of elegance. The last named is quite hardy; the *Y. aloifolia variegata* is nearly so; and the same may be said of *Dracæna australis*. Then there is the *Chamærops Fortunei*,—a hardy and beautiful Chinese Palm. Such plants introduced here would give a variety to small grounds, and contrast well with the surrounding vegetation.

Design No. 5.

The only difference between this and No. 4 is the difference of a square central space, with circular beds exclusively. I am exceedingly partial to the circle for grouping flowering plants. The symmetry is such that, viewed from whatever side, the outline is beautifully perfect. The principal object in introducing another design of such a small group of beds as this, and of making them circular, is to suggest to those who may be fond of elevated cones of flowering plants, that the circles especially afford an opportunity for varying the planting year by year, from an ordinary-shaped bed to that of a cone of flowers. If this group could be planted with the centre cone 4 to 5 feet high, having the hardy *Yucca recurva pendula* for its apex, and the slope of the bed planted with *Perilla* and silver-variegated *Pelargoniums* time about,—*Centaurea ragusina* or *Cineraria maritima* would be better than the *Pelargonium*, but they are not easily got sometimes,—it would represent a living rockwork of dark chocolate and silver, edged with crimson *Verbenas* and *Pelargoniums*.

- 2, 2.—Cone of scarlet *Pelargonium*, with a specimen *Fuchsia* about 2 feet high in its centre; edged with *Koniga variegata* or *Cerastium tomentosum*.
- 3, 3.—Cone of pink *Pelargonium*, with centre specimen of *Love-lies-bleeding*; edged with purple *Verbena* or dwarf *Ageratum*.

Some may suppose that these cones will suffer much for want of moisture in dry weather; but they do not, from the fact that the roots go deep down into the depth of soil provided for them; and a basin can be formed round the centre specimen, by putting a ring of stones round it, into which a potful or two of water can be poured during long droughts. If those who are situated in wet districts were to elevate their flower-beds

well, and use poor light soil, there would be fewer complaints of Pelargoniums being so scant of bloom. By doing this, and using old plants, the tendency to bloom would be much increased. It is easy turning such beds as these circles into cones by raising them with earth, and again making ordinary beds of them by removing it. The planting of this group can be seen from design No. 4, the relationship of the beds to each other being the same in both.

Design No. 6.

This beautiful form of scroll border is to be met with frequently in large gardens, and it may be considered so unique in its lines as to be incapable of much improvement. All the polychromatic attempts that I have seen, to my taste, are either stiff or paltry, or both, as compared to this, which is of very ancient origin. It can be laid down in either box or gravel; but it is, to all intents and purposes, best in a neutral gravel, with box edgings, for the effective display of colour. The limited breadth of the beds and borders does not admit of putting more than one colour in each, except in the straight line of the outside boundary border. When laid down to a great length, the colours, to be effective and distinct from one end to the other, should be contrasting. But one of the great recommendations of this pattern is, that a short length of it can be laid down and look pretty almost anywhere. For a terrace-garden design it is very well adapted.

There is probably not a more effective manner of planting it than by selecting the three primary and contrasting colours, and placing yellow or orange in the centre, No. 1. *Aurea floribunda* is the best I know for the purpose, it being dwarf, and a continuous bloomer. *Lobelia speciosa* in dry soil and climates cannot be excelled as a blue for the scrolls, No. 2; and where the soil is holding and rich, for the boundary borders, No. 3, *Tropaeolum Cooperii*, or a dwarf free-blooming scarlet Verbena. On hot porous soils I would lower these borders, 3, a little, and bring dwarf scarlet Pelargonium down to the proper level, and the effect would be finer even than with the Verbena. Especially if the gravel be dark, I would put a thin streak of *Cerastium tomentosum* all along the outside of 3; or if the soil were strong and suitable, *Arabis lucida variegata* would answer admirably, and require less keeping than *Cerastium*, for it is naturally compact in growth. The best

example of this scroll in a damp climate is to plant No. 1 with *Koniga variegata*, No. 2 with *Viola Perfection*, and No. 3 with *Tropæolum Cooperii*. The only objection to this order is that the *Tropæolum* is easily frosted in autumn; and where *Gazania splendens* does well—to obviate this objection—it may be used with fine effect.

A more subdued but less beautiful effect is produced by putting *Cerastium tomentosum* instead of the scarlet.

A most chaste and soft colouring would be to put a large specimen of *Centaurea ragusina* in the centre of 1, and fringe it with *Cerastium*, if the *Centaurea* would not quite fill up the circle; 2, blue *Lobelia*; 3, golden *Pelargonium*, allowed to flower.

A very effective way is to put Golden Feather *Pyrethrum* in 1; *Ageratum* in 2; and *Tropæolum Cooperii* or *Mrs Ellis* in 3.

Another very effective way is to put in 1, *Centaurea*; and the scrolls, 2, any bright golden *Pelargonium*, and blue *Lobelia* in the alternative scrolls; and plant 3 with scarlet.

To plant it effectively with much less costly plants, put *Tagetes signata pumila* in the circle 1; *Viola Perpetual Yellow* would do in heavy rich soil; *Tagetes* is well adapted for hungry dry soils. *Viola Perfection*, admitting that *Lobelia* is not attainable, in 2; and if *Verbenas* cannot be obtained, *Saponaria calabrica* in 3. These are all compact-growing effective plants, but of course fall far short of the brilliancy of the previously-named things.

PLANTING LONG BORDERS.

Design 7—No. 1.

This represents a long stretch of border without being broken up into any design with walks and edgings of any description. A broad gravel-walk runs along the front of it, and its back boundary may be different, according to circumstances. In some instances it may be a shrubbery; in others, a row of espalier-trees separating the vegetable from the ornamental ground, which is frequently laid out along the front of a range of hothouses.

A border of this description affords great scope for effective planting, and many designs might be worked out over its surface with flowers; but here, as in every other instance where there is to be beauty and repose, I advise simplicity of design.

The following is a very effective way of planting such a border:—

- Back line, 1. *Humea elegans*, 4 feet apart, with a dwarf white Dahlia mingling its blooms with the bronzy spray of the *Humea*.
2. A line of *Dahlia Zelinda*; purple.
3. A line of large plants of pink *Pelargonium*.
4. A groundwork of crimson *Pelargonium*.
5. Raised panels of specimen plants of *Centaurea ragusina*, from 2 to 3 feet in diameter, the plants appearing to rest on the crimson surface.
6. Line of pink *Pelargonium*.
7. Line of purple *Verbena*.
8. Line of dwarf yellow *Calceolaria*.
9. Groundwork of blue *Lobelia speciosa*.
10. Single specimens of *Polemonium cæruleum variegatum*.
11. Line of *Arabis lucida variegata*.

This is a description of planting which has claimed my attention to a very considerable extent, having a series of borders to decorate which are especially adapted for it. Perhaps it might be suggested that the panel specimens of the *Centaurea* and *Polemonium* should be a series of connected links, as it were, strung together in the groundworks by a connecting line. But the most careful observation has convinced me that chainwork running through such a border would take away that simplicity which exists in seeing the panels, as it were, set down upon the groundwork, without any line to prevent the eye from seeing fully into the colour of the groundwork and round each panel plant.

Another way of planting on the same principle:—

1. A line of white *Dahlia alba floribunda*.
2. A line of crimson *Dahlia Prince Arthur*.
3. A line of large plants of silver-variegated *Pelargonium Flower of Spring*.
4. Groundwork of *Verbena venosa* or Purple King—the former preferable where it succeeds.
5. Single specimens of *Yucca aloifolia variegata*, rising 2 feet above the groundwork.
6. Line of *Pelargonium Flower of Spring*.
7. Line of a purplish *Pelargonium*.
8. Line of *Pelargonium Master Christine* or *Constance*.
9. Groundwork of Crimson King *Verbena*.
10. Single specimens of *Centaurea ragusina*, rising about a foot above the *Verbena*.
11. Line of Mrs Pollock *Pelargonium* and *Lobelia speciosa* alternately; or, to give a peculiarly soft margin line, substitute *Cerastium* for the *Lobelia*.

It will be observed that all the back lines stretch to the extremity of the borders, while all the front ones are turned in upon the ends, as are also the front groundwork and panel plants. This gives a finished and less abrupt-like termination to the border. This style of planting may be termed a combination of the ribbon and panel systems, each of which is in

itself effective in different places; but where a border of this width of surface has to be dealt with, the one gives distinctness and variety to the other, and is very effective.

Design 7—No. 2.

This is a much narrower border, and is dealt with in a somewhat different manner, but still preserving the two systems of planting combined.

1. Back line of *Tritoma uvaria*, with crimson or purple *Dahlia* alternately.
2. Silver-variegated *Pelargonium*, or *Cineraria maritima*.
3. Groundwork of *Henry Jacoby* or *Vesuvius Pelargonium*.
4. Single specimens of either variegated *Yuccas* or *Centaurea*, zoned off from the scarlet with purple *Verbena*.
5. Line of silver-variegated *Pelargonium* or *Cineraria maritima*.
6. Line of Purple King *Verbena*.
7. Line of *Polemonium caeruleum variegatum* planted a little wide, and a plant of *Cerastium tomentosum* in between—chaste in the extreme.
8. Line of *Lobelia speciosa*.

Another way :—

1. *Tritoma uvaria*, mixed with dwarf crimson *Dahlia*.
2. Line of silver *Pelargonium*, with the blooms picked off.
3. Groundwork of *Verbena venosa*, or *V. Purple King*, or *Ageratum*, than which no plant is more effective as a lively lavender colour.
4. Panels of yellow *Calceolaria*, or, where they do well for summer decoration, yellow *Viola* and scarlet *Pelargonium* alternately.
5. Line of smaller plants of silver-variegated *Pelargonium*.
- 6 and 7. Line of dwarf scarlet *Pelargonium*.
8. Line of *Cerastium tomentosum*, or any of the golden *Pelargoniums*, or *Pyrethrurum Golden Feather*.

Another way of planting such a border :—

Three back lines next the *Tritoma* of crimson *Pelargonium*; then a line of golden or silver-variegated *Pelargonium*; then a groundwork of *Lobelia speciosa* and *Gazania splendens* mixed, with panels of single specimens of *Centaurea*, and, where it succeeds, *Coleus Verschaffeltii* alternately; or the *Centaurea*, repeated consecutively, is fine. This makes a charming border.

In some cases I have seen a fine effect produced by planting a compact spiral shrub along the centre of such border as panel plants; the back half of the border planted with scarlet *Pelargonium*, and in front of the scarlet a row of white or grey running along and spanning the base of the shrub with a circle; then the front part of the border planted with such as blue *Lobelia*, with panels in it of *Centaurea* or *Polemonium*, alternating in line with the shrubs—the front line being *Gazania*, or golden or tricolor *Pelargonium*.

Design 7—No. 3.

This is a border supposed to be surrounded on each side with gravel or grass, and planted on the panel system.

1. A line of *Lobelia speciosa*, *Viola Perfection*, or dwarf *Ageratum*.
2. A line of golden or silver-variegated *Pelargonium*.
3. Groundwork of Crimson King *Verbena*.
4. Single specimens of *Yucca aloifolia variegata*, zoned off from the groundwork with purple *Verbena* or purplish *Pelargonium*.
- 5 and 6 the same as 1 or 2.

Such a border as this affords scope for a great variety of planting, and the panels give an opportunity of employing such graceful plants as *Yuccas*, *Ferns*, *Dracænas*, and *Palms*. By using *Yucca recurva pendula* and *Dracæna draco*, and some of these drooping-leaved plants, we have the nearest imitation of a series of central fountains surrounded with flowers; or dwarf vases alternating with other garden ornaments can be introduced with fine effect. By using such plants in this way, the glare of colour is subdued and variety of outline created, which is very desirable.

Let any one who has seen *Centaurea ragusina* and *Coleus Verschaffeltii* in combination, suppose a groundwork of the former with panels of the latter in a border 80 or 100 yards long. Even *Perilla* produces a fine effect with the *Centaurea*.

When a soft effect is wanted, the groundwork may be composed of such plants as Mangles' variegated *Pelargonium*, *Koniga variegata*, or even *Cerastium*. The groundwork may be of blue, such as *Lobelia*, or, softer still, *Viola Perfection* or dwarf *Ageratum*, with *Centaurea* panels; and *Cerastium*, golden *Arabis*, or golden *Pelargoniums*, for edging lines to the blue, when the panels are white or grey.

Then, again, the groundworks can be very often laid down in mixtures, such as variegated *Pelargonium*, mixed with purple *Verbena*, *Viola*, or *Lobelia speciosa*; or *Lobelia* mixed with *Gazania*; or *Lobelia* and *Cerastium*, plant for plant. In this case the boundary-lines should be all of one plant; or, when the groundworks are selfs, the boundary-lines, especially the back and front lines of all, can be two distinct plants, time about.

There are many plants which can be used as back lines to such borders when they are one-sided, besides *Tritomas*, *Humeas*, and *Dahlias*: there are *Hollyhocks* and *Gladioli*, and *Cannas*, *Ricinuses*, and other subtropical plants, when there is sufficient shelter for such easily-injured subjects.

Then there are the hardy variegated shrubs, besides such plants as *Arundo conspicua*, *A. donax*, *A. donax variegata*, the New Zealand Flax, &c., &c.; or, where the position is suitable, back lines of Roses would come in well.

Wavy or curved lines can be introduced into such borders by those who have a taste for them; but in long borders, when viewed from the ends, wavy lines are apt to breed confusion.

Ribbon-Border Planting.—This consists of planting long borders with a series of different colours in uninterrupted straight lines, which I do not consider so effective as panel planting, though amateurs and others of small resources can carry it out more easily than panel planting. The ways in which a border can be ribboned are almost as numerous as Coventry ribbon patterns. But a few examples will suffice to illustrate the system :—

No. 1.—To give a very soft combination, to be viewed close at hand.

1. *Cerastium tomentosum*, grey.
2. *Lobelia Paxtonii*, light blue (general effect).
3. *Lobelia speciosa*, blue.
4. Golden *Pelargonium*, gold.
5. Flower of Spring *Pelargonium*, silver variegated, light-rose flowers.
6. Trentham Rose *Pelargonium*, rose.
7. Scarlet or crimson *Pelargonium*, such as *D. Thomson*.

No. 2.—A more distinct or contrasting combination for distant effect.

1. *Cerastium tomentosum*, grey; or golden Thyme.
2. *Lobelia speciosa*, blue; or dwarf *Ageratum*, lavender.
3. Yellow *Calceolaria* or golden *Pelargonium*.
4. *Verbena Purple King*, purple or plum.
5. *Pelargonium*, such as Flower of Spring.
6. *Pelargonium Henry Jacoby*, crimson.

No. 3.—A very superior combination, where the whole of the plants are likely to do well, and where means are ample.

1. *Lobelia speciosa*, *Viola Perfection*, or dwarf *Ageratum*; or in climates where they succeed, crimson *Alternantheras*.
2. Crystal Palace Gem, or any golden *Pelargonium*.
3. *Iresine Lindenii*, crimson.
4. *Centaurea ragusina*, grey.
5. *Coleus Verschaffeltii*, brownish crimson.
6. Large plants of *Pelargonium Mrs Turner* or *Constance*, pink.
7. Scarlet *Pelargonium D. Thomson*.
8. Back line of dwarf white *Dahlias*.

No. 4.—For narrow Borders with easily-managed plants.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Blue Lobelia or dwarf Ageratum. | 3. Scarlet Pelargonium. |
| 2. Koniga variegata or Cerastium,
grey. | 4. Purple Stock. |
| | 5. Tagetes signata pumila. |

*No. 5.—Exclusively with plants that can be raised with
common garden hand-glasses.*

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Yellow Viola, or golden Arabis. | 5. Tagetes signata pumila, orange. |
| 2. Viola Perfection, violet. | 6. Crimson Beet (Barret's), or scarlet Stock. |
| 3. White Intermediate Stock, white. | |
| 4. Purple Intermediate Stock, purple. | |

*No. 6.—Composed of Annuals that can be sown in
the open Border.*

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Nemophila insignis. | 4. Crimson or purple Candytuft. |
| 2. Virginian Stock, red. | 5. Eschscholtzia californica, yellow. |
| 3. Sweet Alyssum, or white Candy-tuft. | 6. Prince's Feather. |

By a reference to the list of Annuals at page 149, amateurs can easily see the various colours and heights of annuals to succeed each other in ribbon borders.

Long borders of this description should have a slope rising to the back before being planted; and any line of plants can be lowered very simply to a desired level, by throwing out a little of the soil on to the other part of the border.

Examples of Planting Beds.

1. A large bed, supposed to be the key or centre bed of a group of large beds, or as an isolated bed. Centre of some strong-growing silver-variegated Pelargonium, such as May Queen. This should be planted so as to leave 5 feet of a space all round the bed. Edge close to the Pelargoniums with Crystal Palace Gem Pelargonium, and then plant four rows of Lobelia speciosa, and edge it next the box with Gazania splendens, and place single plants of Centaurea ragusina in the centre of the blue band, and about 8 feet apart. This makes a magnificent though quiet bed. It does very well, and is fully more brilliant, to mix the blue with Gazania, and edge next the box with dwarf Scarlet Pelargonium. The ground requires to be slightly lowered for P. Little David.
2. Centre dwarf or yellow Dahlia, then two rows of purple Zelinda-Dahlia, finishing the bed with either Cineraria maritima or Centaurea, putting the outside line a little thinner, and planting between each plant with Purple King Verbena or dwarf Ageratum or Viola Tory. This makes a noble-looking bed.
3. Calceolaria Gem, with two rows of either Perilla, Coleus Verschaffeltii, or Dell's Beet, round it; then two lines of white or grey foliage, such as Dactylis glomerata, finished with a line of purple Viola or dwarf Ageratum.
4. Prince Arthur Dahlia, with two rows of pink Pelargonium, finished with

- white or gold, such as golden Pelargonium or Pyrethrum or golden Thyme.
5. Pelargonium Mrs Turner, with two rows of yellow Calceolaria, finished with a line of Iresine Lindenii or Lobelia speciosa. I confess I do not like pink and yellow put together, but this makes a not unpleasant and rather singular bed.
 6. Trentham Rose Pelargonium, two rows of Crimson King Verbena, finished with Mrs Pollock, or any of the free-growing Pelargoniums of this type. This makes a splendid bed.
 7. Pelargonium Stella, two rows of yellow Calceolaria, finished with purple Verbena.
 8. Verbena venosa, or Purple King, two rows of Pelargonium Flower of Spring, finished with Iresine Lindenii.
 9. White Stock, two rows of Pelargonium Henry Jacoby, edged with P. Mrs Pollock.
 10. Scarlet Pelargonium, two rows of Ageratum mexicanum, finished with Koniga variegata, or dwarf variegated Pelargonium, such as Mangles'.
 11. Scarlet Pelargonium, two rows of P. Master Christine, finished with golden Pelargonium or golden Pyrethrum.
 12. Coleus Verschaffeltii, two rows of Centaurea ragusina, finished with Mrs Pollock Pelargonium.
 13. Centaurea, two rows of Iresine, Perilla, or Coleus, according as localities are suitable, finished with Cloth of Gold Pelargonium.
 14. Tagetes signata pumila, with two rows of Beet, finished with Dactylis glomerata variegata ; a grand bed, and only requires a frame to raise the Tagetes.
 15. Clematis Jackmannii, with two rows of Flower of Spring Pelargonium or variegated Periwinkle, finished with Iresine or Dell's Beet.
 16. Clematis lanuginosa nivea, with two rows of Verbena venosa, finished with golden Pelargonium.

These are all suitable for large beds, which would have a heavy appearance unless planted with three colours. The examples given are chiefly on the principle of contrast. The planting may be varied with very good effect, by planting the finishing line the same as the centre of the bed—thus: Suppose a centre of the hardy Centaurea ragusina, with two rows of crimson Pelargonium or dark-foliaged plant, then finish with golden Thyme.

Variety can also be obtained by mixing the edging line with another plant, to give, as it were, a mixed fringe—thus:

A centre of crimson Pelargonium, banded with pink, and finished with golden Pyrethrum and blue Lobelia, plant for plant. This mixed edging has a very cheerful effect.

Then, again, for variety in large beds, especially when isolated, a mixed centre looks exceedingly well—thus:

1. Variegated Veronica, Periwinkle, or a silver-variegated Pelargonium, mixed with Verbena venosa or purple Viola, and edged with crimson, looks remarkably well.
2. Or variegated Pelargoniums, mixed with purple Viola, and edged with Iresine or any strong colour; or golden Pelargonium mixed with purple Viola looks very beautiful.
3. White and purple Stocks planted time about, and banded with orange scarlet, such as Tropaeolum Cooperii, makes a fine bed.

4. *Gazania splendens*, mixed with blue *Lobelia*, and edged with *Cerastium* or crimson *Alternanthera*.

For planting smaller beds with two colours, the following are effective:—

1. *Tropaeolum Cooperii*, edged with one row blue *Lobelia*.
2. Blue *Lobelia*, edged with *Cerastium tomentosum*.
3. *Cerastium tomentosum*, edged with blue *Lobelia*, is exceedingly sweet.
4. *Pelargonium Henry Jacoby*, edged with *P. Cloth of Gold*, or any of the compact golden sorts, or golden *Pyrethrum*.
5. *Pelargonium Mrs Pollock*, edged with *Cerastium* or blue *Lobelia*.
6. Variegated *Pelargonium*, edged with *Iresine*.
7. *Pelargonium (variegated)*, edged with *Tropaeolum Cooperii*.
8. *Mrs Pollock Pelargonium*, edged with *Iresine*. The mixed system of centre and edging may be adopted in small beds occasionally for the sake of variety, the same as shown for large beds. The plants named in these combinations are such as I conceive would be most familiar to the largest number of readers, and are the types of many others.

Shaded Beds.

A few illustrations of these will be given, to show how to plant on the harmonic system. It is supposed that the beds are not large, and that two lines of each plant named are sufficient to fill them up.

1. White *Pelargonium*, or *Centaurea ragusina*, or silver-leaved *Pelargonium*, with the blooms kept off.
2. *Pelargonium*, any light pink.
3. *P.*, any rose variety.
4. *P.*, scarlet.
5. *P.*, a tall crimson variety.

This is a shaded bed of *Pelargoniums*, and can be planted with the white at the centre, which we think best, or *vice versa*.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Calceolaria amplexicaulis</i> at centre. | \| 3. C. Prince of Orange. |
| 2. C. Gem. | 4. C. Ambassador, or Havelock. |

A shaded bed of *Calceolaria*, with pale yellow at centre, increasing in depth of colour to the outside row, which is crimson.

Pincushion Beds.

This is a popular designation given to beds that are planted with a self-colour as a ground, and dotted over with contrasting plants; and when well carried out, it makes a pleasing variety:—

A groundwork of blue *Lobelia*, edged with *Cerastium tomentosum*, and plants of *Mrs Pollock Pelargonium* planted regularly in it at intervals, not too thick to hinder the groundwork being distinctly seen all round each plant of the *Pelargonium*.

- A groundwork of *Cerastium*, dotted with dark bronze *Pelargonium*; the edging blue *Lobelia*.
- A groundwork of *Tropaeolum Cooperii*, dotted with *Crystal Palace Gem Pelargonium*.
- A groundwork of purple *Viola*, dotted with yellow *Calceolaria* or *Centaurea ragusina*.
- A groundwork of *Pyrethrum Golden Feather*, dotted with *Sedum spectabile*.
- A groundwork of Imperial dwarf *Ageratum*, dotted with *Centaurea* or *Cineraria maritima*.
- A groundwork of purple *Viola*, dotted with variegated *Periwinkle*.
- A groundwork of blue *Lobelia*, dotted with variegated *Polemonium*.

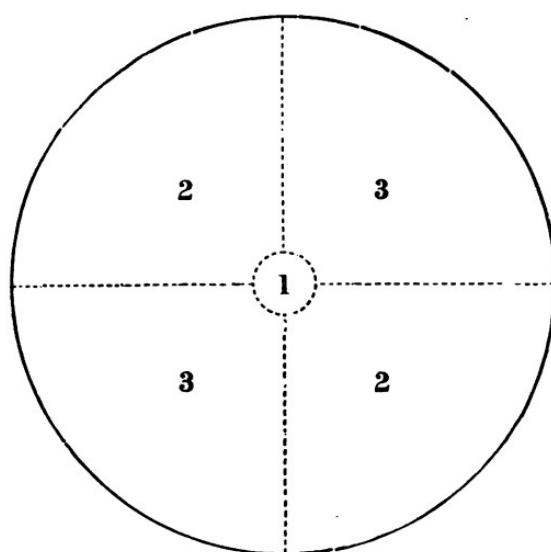
These few illustrations will, we think, explain what is here treated of, and show how a great variety of beds of this sort could be planted.

Pyramidal Beds.

The system of planting towering pyramids, or cones of flowering plants, has already been briefly referred to. To preserve tall old *Pelargoniums* and other plants for this purpose requires a good deal of glass accommodation; and where such can be afforded, these form a very effective variety in flower-garden grounds. We have, however, attained the same end by using ordinary plants planted on raised mounds of soil; and immediately the planting is finished, paving the surface of the cone with round stones such as can be found in the beds of rivers and by the sea-shore. This plan keeps the soil from being washed down by heavy rains, and also keeps it moist in dry weather. Such raised beds are very effective in sunny nooks and recesses, where there is a background of shrubs or trees not too close to them, as in the recessed circular beds in Design No. 1. They may either be all one colour, or a mixture of plants, as circumstances require. In planting baskets and these mounds in ground where there are many ordinary self-beds, it forms a good variety to make them one mixed nosegay, as it were; though there is no question that, for distant effect, self-planting is the most striking.

To give variety, and at the same time distinct and expressive effect, in one bed, is of considerable importance to those who have only one bed that they can, or feel disposed to, devote to the grouping system of planting. Fig. 3 is designed to show how this can be done with considerable variety. And it will be supposed that the planting has to be accomplished with plants which require nothing more than a garden hand-glass or two, and a spare window to grow and preserve them.

FIG. 8.



- 1.—A round or oblong group (according as the shape of the bed may be) of scarlet Pelargonium, or even one good plant of it. From this to each corner plant a line of *Dactylis glomerata variegata*, silver Euonymus, or Veronica.
 2, 2.—*Viola Perfection*, edged in front with *Cerastium tomentosum* or *Viola Sovereign*.
 3, 3.—*Saponaria calabrica*; edged in front with *Arabis mollis* or *A. alpina variegata*.

The centre—1—may be the hardy *Tritoma uvaria*; the intersecting lines may be Prince's Feather, and the segments 2, 2, *Dactylis glomerata variegata*, with *Gladiolus Brenchleyensis* mixed thinly in it; 3, 3, purple Stock or scarlet Pelargonium, with some light-coloured Gladiolus mixed in; the edging to 2, 2, *Viola purple*; and to 3, 3, *Cerastium* or yellow *Viola*. This would make a very effective bed, and give a good deal of variety, forming, as it were, four beds out of one. Some, however, may prefer the circular system of planting to the sectional—plenty of examples are given of the circular system, and they need not be repeated here—or a group of Gladiolus may be planted in the centre: the intersecting lines may be *Tagetes signata pumila*; 2, 2, filled with purple Stocks; 3, 3, with scarlet Stocks. Or if the bed be large, the intersecting lines may be of Gladiolus; and if a sufficient number of Pelargoniums can be mustered, plant 2, 2 with scarlet Pelargoniums, and 3, 3 with *Tagetes* or purple Stock—the edgings to the

scarlet being of *Arabis* or *Cerastium*, and to the *Tagetes* of purple *Viola*. Many annuals, such as Candytufts, purple, crimson, and white, the blue *Nemophila*, Virginian Stocks, and a number of others included in the lists given, may be used in such a bed with a very pretty effect.

There may be three intersecting lines instead of one. For instance: Suppose the intersecting line laid down on fig. 3 be *Tagetes signata pumila*, orange. Then, if harmony be desired, plant on each side of the line of *Tagetes* a line of *Dactylis glomerata variegata*; then 2, 2 can be filled with scarlet *Pelargonium*; and 3, 3 with *Mignonette*, or purple Candytuft, or Stock. Many of the hardy plants enumerated and treated of could be used in this way by those who have no means of growing, or even purchasing, more tender and expensive ones.

By planting such beds with the *élite* of the flower-garden, they are very attractive. Suppose the intersecting line to be *Centaurea ragusina* or variegated *Pelargonium*, with the centre 1 of some crimson- or dark-foliaged plant, or a *Yucca* or *Palm*, or *Dracæna*; 2, 2 to be crimson *Pelargonium* or *Verbena Crimson King*; 3, 3 to be *Pelargonium Mrs Turner*; the front edging to the crimson being golden *Pelargonium*, and to the pink a purple or blue. This is a pretty bed, and indicates how scores of different plants could be so contained in such beds.

Mixed Borders.

An example of a mixed border of hardy and half-hardy plants, suitable for the climate of Scotland generally, as well as the extreme north of England, and one that would be effective anywhere.

The example now to be described is that of the well-known mixed border which the late Mr Turnbull annually produced at Bothwell Castle, and which was admitted by all to have been the best example of a mixed flower-garden they had seen. The border forms the north boundary of the flower-garden, and extends to 100 yards in length, and is 12 feet wide. The plants were generally divided into five lines, which, when the plants were full grown, were not intended to appear as lines at all. The first or front line was dotted over with Phloxes of the *Omniflora* breed, the intervals filled up with scarlet-flowering and variegated *Pelargoniums*. In front of these, *Gazania splendens*, variegated *Alyssum*, and *Lobelia speciosa* planted

along the whole line. A few plants of *Centaurea ragusina* were planted at intervals along this dwarf line.

The second line from the front contained a selection of Phloxes—a shade taller than those in front—and mixed with double white Feverfew and yellow Calceolarias of sorts.

The third line, chiefly Double Peach and White Rockets, *Valeriana rubra*, Delphiniums, Phloxes, and a variety of the dwarf-growing Dahlias, early and free bloomers; some of the more dwarf varieties, such as *Titian* and *alba floribunda*, were planted a little to the front of the taller growers; a few Gladioluses and moderate-growing Tropæolums were introduced near the Rockets, to keep up the show when the Rockets were over.

The fourth line consisted of the lovely *Delphinium formosum*, *D. Barlowii*, and *D. Hendersonii*, with some tall Phloxes, Veronicas, and *Lythrum variegatum*; and all these, again, intermixed with free-flowering Dahlias of various colours.

The fifth line was made up of some of the tall-growing Phloxes, *Lysimachia tomentosa*, with some Aconitums, Delphiniums, and Dahlias; the latter chiefly of the yellow shades of colour. The plants were not put in so thickly in the back line; for the whole was backed by a wall, which was converted into a splendid back line of beauty by covering it with Roses and shrubs, with a liberal use of *Tropeolums*, especially of the crimson shades, which were very telling as a glowing background.

The plants here enumerated do not include the whole of those used, but they form the chief of this grand mixed display, which, where suitable places can be devoted to this style of planting, is as well worthy of imitation as any other style in existence. It is much more practicable generally, and quite as imposing as any arrangement of tender subtropical plants.

Borders composed chiefly of Fine-foliaged Plants.

There are now so many beautiful silver and golden variegated Pelargoniums, that, in conjunction with the grey and dark foliaged subjects, an interesting scene might be created in departments of extensive pleasure-gardens without the aid of flowers at all, more especially as there are so many plants of more graceful outline, remarkable also for their foliage properties (without even trenching on the more tender section of subtropical plants), all of which can be wintered in cool houses, or raised annually from seed.

I shall give an example of how a ribbon border has been for several years made most gay and interesting, by the use of plants remarkable for the beauty of their foliage, where the climate is not sufficiently favourable for producing bloom. The border in question, one at Mayfield, Falkirk, was a sunk terrace border 120 yards long—the terrace slope and walk being of grass; though we would prefer to have the walk of gravel, for bringing out more conspicuously the hues of the foliage-plants used. The arrangement successfully carried out in one of the wettest and coldest years on record was as follows:—

1st Row.—*Cerastium tomentosum*. This was kept dwarf and close by being repeatedly topped and passing a very light roller over it, always going in the same direction, and was never much over two inches high.

2d Row.—*Arabis lucida variegata*.

3d Row.—*Gnaphalium lanatum*, pegged down and kept pinched.

4th Row.—*Viola cornuta*, spring-struck. This is a grand wet-weather and heavy-soil plant.

Behind these, and in the centre of the border, from one end to the other, was a chain of diamonds, the outline of which was Mrs Pollock and Sunset Pelargoniums alternately, the centre of the diamond being Pelargonium Christine—a fine wet-climate Pelargonium. In the centre of each diamond bed were placed plants of Coleus Verschaffeltii and Iresine Herbstii alternately, space being left in the centres of the Iresine for one plant of Centaurea ragusina. The triangles on each side of the chain of diamonds were planted to match, and were filled in with Iresine Herbstii, with a patch of the lovely Dactylis glomerata variegata in the centre of each triangle.

1st Row.—Behind this, as a backing, Pelargonium Christine.

2d Row.—*Taxus elegantissima* and Queen Holly—time about; both golden, and about 3 feet in height. Between each of these, and a little in advance of them, was a specimen plant of Centaurea ragusina.

3d Row.—A row of green Yews with golden tops, and *Acer Negundo variegatum*, plant for plant from 4 to 5 feet,—the back line of all being a row of spiral-growing Conifers.

The only blooming plants here used were the pink Pelargonium and the Viola,—the whole of the bloom-buds being picked from the others as they appeared.

Another and very effective way in which this border has been planted is as follows: A number of green and variegated American Aloes 6 feet high, placed between the spiral trees forming the background. Then the

1st Row, next the grass, was of *Mesembryanthemum cordifolium variegatum* —a very pretty, low, mossy, creamy-yellow-looking plant.

2d Row.—*Alternanthera amabilis.*

3d Row.—*Circle golden Pyrethrum.*

4th Row.—*Triangles on each side of circles, Sedum azoideum variegatum.*

5th Row.—*A line of Gnaphalium tomentosum and Centaurea ragusina, broken every 8 feet with groups of Perilla nankinensis.*

6th Row.—*Green Yews having globe-shaped tops of golden Yews alternating with Acer Negundo variegatum. The groundwork to these was of Geranium Christine.*

There was also what may be termed a vista border at Mayfield, which has been made very charming by adhering more to foliaged plants, which are found to stand the heavy rains and winds to which the locality is subject with impunity. There are two borders 200 yards in length, on each side of a broad grand walk, with a grass verge :—

1st Row.—*Golden Pyrethrum.*

2d Row.—*Iresine Herbstii.*

The centre of the borders on each side was planted with oblong panels: 1. Of Cloth of Gold Geranium; 2. Iresine Herbstii, margined with the hoary Gnaphalium lanatum; 3. Flower of Spring Pelargonium. These three panels were repeated in the same order from end to end. Behind these, and nearest the dark-green Yews of the background, was a row of Stella Pelargonium,—the only flowering plant in the border, the blooms being picked off the rest. The far end of the vista was closed in with a semicircle of golden Yews, between which were masses of Tritoma uvaria; in front of these, a broad zone of Flower of Spring Pelargonium; then masses of Iresine Herbstii, bordered in front with a broad zone of golden Pyrethrum; in the centre, a specimen of Dracaena australis. This was a very effective combination of foliage, with a little bloom; and in places where the majority of bedding plants do not flower well, may be followed with good effect.

It must be understood, as the experienced will see, that such border planting is of the highest and most expensive order; the shrubs alone testify to this. But it should afford encouragement to those who are located in climates not favourable to the production of bloom, as it shows how the very gayest of parterre-work can be carried out; and it is as an example of this that special reference is made to a place which cannot be regarded as favoured with climate, and where decorative gardening has not been a mere attempt at copying what is carried out in favoured localities, and after a failure the whole thing condemned.

Design No. 1, as a Spring Flower-Garden.

The principle on which the successful grouping of spring-flowering plants should be carried out may be said to be precisely the same, in so far as the contrast and harmony of colours are concerned, as the summer flower-garden. The plants which have been enumerated and treated of for spring flowering, afford even more distinct shades of colour than are available for summer decoration. This can easily be seen by a reference to the various sections of plants from which suitable ones are selected, inclusive of bulbs, annuals, and shrubs.

Supposing a group of beds represented by this design to be one which is required gay both in summer and spring, the arrangement requires to be distinct from and more temporary than one required gay in spring only; for which reason, looking at it as a summer garden also, it could be planted for effect in April and May principally as follows:—

- 1.—Supposing that there is no work of art as a centre, set a light rose-coloured Rhododendron of symmetrical growth (see list of Rhododendrons). Surround this with a row of dwarf Queen or silver Holly; as a centre, a specimen plant of *Yucca recurva* might do graceful duty all the year round. Then plant the rest of the bed with large plants of *Alyssum saxatile*, yellow, or *Cheiranthus alpinus*, leaving room for an edging of blue Pansy.
- 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3.—Planting on the concentric-ring system, these would be all planted alike here also, with *Myosotis arvensis* (blue Forget-me-not); edged with *Cheiranthus alpinus* or *C. Marshallii*. The latter should be chosen if the former be the yellow in the centre bed.
- 4, 4, 4, 5, 5.—*Arabis albida*, white, and a great bloomer; edged with red Daisy.
- 6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7.—Scarlet or red Anemone; edged with white Pansy.

Close to the margin of these beds there may be a row of some dwarf-growing bulbous plants, such as *Crocus*, *Erythronium*, or *Scilla*, which bloom and grow without interfering with the edging plants we have named; and after these earlier flowering things are done blooming, the edging will extend to the extreme margins and take up their place.

These are all very effective plants, and last in bloom a long time. It will be observed that there are no Tulips or Hyacinths, or upright stiff-growing bulbs, mentioned in this arrangement for beds. In beds by themselves they have a stiff and somewhat formal appearance, and do not keep long in bloom, although nothing can excel the splendour of the colours. We recommend, as mentioned elsewhere, that they be introduced thinly among the plants which have better capabilities for covering the ground. In this case, let No. 1 have a ground-

work of dwarf yellow, and be dotted with a tall-growing bright-coloured Tulip, such as *Imperator rubrorum*.

In the blue Forget-me-not, in beds Nos. 2 and 3, a white or yellow Tulip,—we should choose a white, the centre bed being yellow, as the edging here; *La Candeur* would come in well, or the striped Royal Standard Tulip would do very well. In the white beds, Nos. 4 and 5, *Arabis albida*, it being a dwarf grower, a Hyacinth might be dotted in: a red or bluish variety would tell well with the white. The outside beds of scarlet Anemone may be interplanted with the *Narcissus tenuifolius* or *A. albus-plenus*.

By the time these and the outside lines of various-coloured Crocuses, Snowdrops, Scillas, &c., were done blooming, the things planted for the permanent display would be coming into full beauty; and as the blooms of the Tulip, &c., last into the tolerably full bloom of the plants which covered the bed, they form an interesting contrast in character, colour, and habit; and the bulbs, if desired, can be removed at once from the beds as soon as their bloom fades.

To plant this design on the alternate principle.

- 1.—White Forget-me-not, or white *Silene pendula*; edged with dark purple Pansy, and sprinkled with a crimson or scarlet Tulip.
- 2, 2, 2.—Purple Pansy; edged with yellow Alyssum or *Limnanthes Douglasii*, and having white-coloured Hyacinth mixed in.
- 3, 3, 3.—Cheiranthus alpinus or *C. Marshallii*; edged with *Nemophila insignis*; and Belle Alliance Tulip mixed in the Cheiranthus.
- 4, 4, 4.—*Silene pendula*, pink; edged with purple Primula, with yellow and red Tulip mixed in.
- 5, 5, 5.—Blue Forget-me-not; edged with yellow Pansy or *Viola*, with white Tulip or *Narcissus* mixed in.
- 6, 6, 6.—Anemone coronaria, scarlet; edged with *Dactylis glomerata variegata*, with *Narcissus tenuifolius* mixed in. The *Dactylis*, in March, April, and May, in its young state, is exquisitely beautiful.
- 7, 7, 7.—Purple Primrose, single; edged with white Daisy, and having white or light-coloured Hyacinth mixed in.

For the sake of variety, it is easy to put a third edging line to these beds, in which case the edgings named above should be double rows, and the finishing line a single row, quite independent of early dwarf-growing bulbs near the margins.

To plant these beds with annuals and bulbs, which can be quickly produced, and from which category Pansies and Daisies—the chief glory of the spring garden—must not be excluded, plant as follows:—

- 1.—*Lasthenia californica*, annual, yellow; banded with purple *Viola* or Pansy; edged with white Daisy; having a row of blue Crocus at the edge.

- 2, 2, 2.—White Forget-me-not ; edged with *Silene pendula*, rose ; banded with purple Pansy ; and edged with red Daisy, having a row of yellow Crocus at the margin.
- 3, 3, 3.—*Silene pendula* ; banded with *Calandrinia umbellata* ; edged with variegated *Arabis lucida* ; having a band of *Scilla bifolia* at the edge.
- 4, 4, 4.—Purple Pansy ; banded with *Limnanthes Douglasii* ; edged with red Daisy.
- 5, 5, 5.—Yellow Pansy ; banded with *Nemophila insignis* ; edged with *Cerastium tomentosum* or variegated Daisy ; with white Crocus round the edge.
- 6, 6, 6.—Blue Forget-me-not ; banded with *Limnanthes sulphurea odorata* ; edged with red Daisy ; with a band of blue Crocus.
- 7, 7, 7.—Reddish Primula ; banded with sweet Alyssum ; edged with blue Gentian or *Nemophila insignis* ; with yellow Crocus at the edge. Where very early flowers are an object, Snowdrops might be used for some of the outer edges of the beds, as also Winter Aconite. Of course these beds can be also mixed in with Tulips, Hyacinths, and Narcissus, &c., as previously directed.

These examples of planting are chiefly on the contrasting principle; but there is ample material for carrying out the system of harmony also, as detailed for summer planting. As in the case of summer planting, I have here named representative plants only. The heights and colours, and times of blooming, can be seen where the plants are fully treated of. When such a garden as this is on gravel, we would strongly recommend the edging to be of the various Ivies and early-flowering Heaths, *Cotoneaster microphylla*, and other plants which can be kept in bounds, and that afford various hues of colour. The centres of the beds afford scope for centrical objects in each, as described for summer planting ; and the various lists give ample hardy material for this purpose. Some of the Fritillaries are majestic-looking objects, suited for the centre of smaller beds ; and such plants as *Dielytra spectabilis* and *Centaurea ragusina* can be put out with all safety in the end of March, if wintered hardily.

If such a design as this were in a sunk panel, the slope and top verge may be clothed with even the common Ivy. It would be much more easily kept than grass, look well at all seasons, and have a more lively appearance in winter and early spring than brown mossy grass.

The circles in the recesses afford room for beds of berried and spring-flowering shrubs ; or where the garden is principally required gay in spring, here is scope for groups of Rhododendrons, with a Standard Rhododendron in the centre, or, what would be better, a spiral tree or shrub. The edging of these beds could be of various-coloured flowering shrubs, or of those with variegated foliage, for which we refer to our list of these given elsewhere ; or, if there were room in the grounds else-

where, then these may be rockwork and basket time about. The rockwork clothed with spring-flowering plants and pretty foliage, and the baskets, would form a first-rate opportunity of keeping up a constant display of bulbous and other plants,—they being very suitable for Tulips, Hyacinths, &c.

To clothe such a design as No. 1 with beauty in the winter months, if flowers are not required in March, April, and May, a different class of plants, and a somewhat different system of arrangement, can be adopted with success. Admitting that the garden is sunk in a panel, the slope of Ivy is in winter of more importance than ever—the verdure of this useful plant being so conspicuously fresh in the depth of winter. And in the central groups of beds the variegated Ivies could be used with splendid effect, covering their surface with the golden, silver, and green varieties, and then filling in with the different variegated and berried shrubs to suit each groundwork. Ericas, which begin to bloom in the depth of winter, variegated Periwinkles, and many other bright-looking plants, are available as contrasts to such as beds of *Cotoneaster microphylla* with its red berries,—a bed of which, dotted with golden Yews or Hollies, would be exceedingly pretty. The *Pernettyas*, *Gaultherias*, and other berried plants, as well as such *Rhododendrons* as are enumerated amongst the very early flowerers, are also invaluable for winter and very early spring decoration. What could look better than a clump of golden Ivy, with a few plants of the *Yucca recurva pendula* dotted over it?

Following out this order of decoration, a space can be left inside the edgings of the beds and between these centre arrangements for very early spring-flowering plants, such as Snowdrops, Winter Aconites, Christmas Rose, &c., and Pansies, which bloom more or less amid frost and snow, with such as *Cerastium*, *Ajuga reptans rubra*, *Stachys lanata*, the variegated *Arabis*,—all suitable as edging plants. Vases and baskets could be made up with hardy *Yuccas* and variegated and berried shrubs.

To embrace both winter and spring in such a simple design as this, could be very effectively accomplished by following out the system just indicated in filling the centres of the beds, leaving a wide margin for hardy-flowering plants, choosing those that are at once early bloomers and most continuous; such as Pansies, Primroses, and *Arabis*—especially the variegated sorts. Most of the annuals are of little use for this purpose—still the best of them are available for these margins;

and in winter a few twigs of evergreens of various hues can be stuck amongst them till spring, which would give a finished look, and protect the annuals from the severe black frosts which sometimes occur. The earlier-flowering bulbous plants could also be intermixed with annuals, as directed for beds.

Another and more recent way of giving colour and pretty vegetation to a flower-garden in winter has been adopted in some places, and perhaps most especially at Wardie Lodge, near Edinburgh. Some dozen sorts of the beautifully-coloured posy Kales have been used, with the best possible effects, in combination with such shrubs and early-flowering plants as have just been recommended. There is in these Kales ample variety of character and colour for a greater and more pleasing effect than can be imagined by those who have never seen them. There is another feature that highly commends the use of Kales, and one that is essential to their being available for the many,—namely, their cheapness and ease in management.

The seeds are sown in April, and when large enough they are transplanted into poor gravelly soil, in an exposed situation. Here they grow dwarf and hardy, and remain till the summer flowers are cleared away, when the Kales are moved with balls, to take their places in combination with shrubs.

The craving for some dash of colour at this dull season of the year has led to the use of pounded brick, and various-coloured stones and sands,—a cold and dead-looking system of decoration, without anything to commend it but a surface of dead matter, that can only be bearable as a slight auxiliary in some styles of gardens, but never as a substitute for the beauty of living plants and flowers.

Design No. 2 as a Spring Garden.

- 1.—*Myosotis arvensis alba*—white Forget-me-not; banded with purple Pansy; edged with yellow Pansy; having a ring of purple Crocus close to the verge.
- 2, 2.—*Pink Silene pendula*; banded with white Pansy; edged with *Gentiana verna* or *Nemophila insignis*; with a ring of white Crocus or Snowdrop close to the edge.
- 3, 3, 4, 4.—Purple *Viola* or Pansy; banded with *Limnanthes Douglasii*; edged with red Daisy; ring of blue Crocus or *Scilla bifolia* round the verge.
- 6, 6, 7, 7.—White Pansy; banded with red Daisy; edged with *Cerastium tomentosum*; with a row of *Erythronium dens-canis* round the verge.
- 5, 5, 8, 8.—Yellow *Viola* or Pansy, or *Alyssum saxatile* (yellow Pansy blooms the earliest); banded with *Nemophila insignis*; edged with white Daisy; a row of blue Crocus next the verge.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Scarlet Anemone; banded with white *Saponaria calabrica* or perennial Candytuft; edged with blue Pansy or *Nemophila*; with a band of white Crocus or Snowdrop.

- 10, 10, 10, 10.—*Myosotis arvensis*—blue Forget-me-not; banded with *Cheiranthus alpinus*—yellow; edged with purple *Erythronium dens-canis*; having a ring of yellow *Crocus* near the edge.
 11, 11.—Scarlet Intermediate Stock (or *Silene pendula*, or *Saponaria calabrica*, red); banded with white Forget-me-not or Stock; edged with purple Pansy; ring of Snowdrops at the edge.

In this arrangement it will be observed that things which are easily got up are chiefly recommended, but which at the same time are very showy: white Intermediate Stocks would be our choice in 6, 6, 7, 7, but they are not so easily provided.

Design No. 3 as a Spring Garden.

- 1.—*Myosotis arvensis alba*, or white Stock; banded with purple *Viola* or Pansy; edged with red Daisy.
 2, 2, 2.—Yellow *Viola*, *Alyssum saxatile*, or *Cheiranthus alpinus*; banded with *Nemophila insignis*; edged with white Daisy.
 3, 3.—Blue Pansy; banded with white *Saponaria*; edged with *Aubrieta Campbellii* or *grandiflora*.
 4, 4, 4, 4.—*Silene pendula*—red or pink—or scarlet Stock; banded with *Dactylis glomerata*; edged with blue Pansy.
 5, 5, 5.—Pink Primrose; banded with *Nemophila insignis*; edged with *Primula auricula*.
 6, 6, 6, 6.—Scarlet Intermediate Stock; banded with white *Myosotis*; edged with purple Pansy or *Viola*.
 7, 7, 7, 7.—*Myosotis arvensis*—blue; banded with *Limnanthes Douglasii*; edged with *Cerastium tomentosum*.
 8, 8, 8, 8.—*Dactylis glomerata variegata*, or white Stock; banded with blue Pansy; edged with red Daisy.
 9, 9, 13, 13.—*Collinsia verna*, or purple Pansy; banded with yellow *Viola*; edged with *Ajuga reptans rubra*.
 12, 12, 12, 12.—*Lasthenia californica*, *Alyssum saxatile*, or yellow Pansy; banded—if the centre be either of the two latter named—with purple *Aubrieta*; and edged with golden *Arabis*. If the centre be *Lasthenia*, band with purple Pansy; and edge with *Cerastium* or white Daisy.
 14, 14, 14.—*Silene pendula*; banded with purple Primrose or purple Pansy; edged with *Dactylis* or white Pansy.
 15, 15.—Scarlet Anemone; banded with purple Primrose or purple Pansy; edged with red.
 16, 16, 16, 16.—Red Stock; banded with *Alyssum maritimum*; edged with blue *Gentiana verna*.

The mixing in of the bulbous plants, and the outside rings of early-flowering things, as well as the harmonising of the colours, can be seen from the other designs, the principle being applicable to this also.

Design No. 4 as a Winter and Spring Garden.

To make this simple group of beds gay for the longest possible time between the season when the autumn flowers are removed and the beginning of June, plant as follows, embracing only such plants as are easily and speedily provided:—

- 1.—In the centre of this bed plant a nice symmetrical specimen, about 4 feet high, of the graceful pyramidal-growing *Cupressus macrocarpa*; round it some dwarf well-feathered plants of variegated Holly, such as the Golden Queen. Then divide the circle into segments with some dwarf compact dark-green shrub: the common Yew answers well. Trim these dividing lines into lines not too heavy for the size of the bed, but do not give them a clipped appearance. The trimming should be knife, not scissor, work. These dividing lines may be of Ivy of any shade of colour, and can be permanent, with good effect. Then fill up the segments facing the beds 2, 2 with yellow Viola or Pansy, and those facing 3, 3 with white Pansy; leaving room for a double row of red Daisy round the margin of the white Pansy, and a like band of dwarf purple Primrose round the yellow Pansy. Next the verge of the segments with white Pansy, put blue Crocus; and round the yellow segments and between the purple Primrose and the verge, a row of Snowdrops.
 - 2, 2.—Purple Viola, with a specimen of *Skimmia japonica* in the centre of the bed, edged with white Daisy; yellow Crocus close to the edge.
 - 3, 3.—Scarlet Anemone, or scarlet and rose mixed, edged with *Arabis mollis* variegata, with a row of blue Crocus or dwarf Scilla close to the edge. If these four beds be shortened a little, and a small circle placed between them, fill every alternate circle with a *Thuja aurea* in the centre; surrounded with *Bellis aucubæfolia*—variegated Daisy with red blooms; and the remaining circles with *Euonymus radicans* variegatus in the centre, surrounded with blue Gentian and blue Crocus mixed—the Crocus to flower early and be removed.
- The yellow Pansy in the centre bed 1 to have dwarf crimson Tulip mixed in; and in the white Pansy mix red or pink Hyacinth.
- 2, 2.—Mix in dwarf yellow Narcissus.
 - 3, 3.—Mix in white Tulip.

It is of course supposed that a mixed border is available for many of the early-blooming plants which are not sufficiently continuous in their period of blooming to be admitted into the decoration of these beds, and the proper place for which is the mixed border.

Design No. 6 as a Spring Garden.

1. Yellow Viola or Pansy, or *Alyssum saxatile*, or Alpine Wallflower.
2. Purple Viola or Pansy.
3. Red Daisy; with a bounding line next the bed of white Daisy or *Cerastium tomentosum*. This arrangement would make a splendid display for three months in spring, and give more or less bloom through the winter.

With Annuals.

1. *Limnanthes Douglasii*; 2. *Nemophila insignis*; 3. *Silene pendula*, with the bed kept low. A nice plant of *Thuja aurea* in the centre of 1, and a small *Yucca aloifolia* variegata or *Centaurea* at each angle of the 3, would give variety. Either the *Yucca* or *Centaurea* could be put out in March.

We are passing several of these designs, as some of them illustrate the others sufficiently, especially as we have arranged them all for the summer season.

PLATE X.

This design will be recognised at once by those who have seen what is distinguished at Drumlanrig as the Upper White Sand Garden. It is in itself a garden of great beauty, exceedingly pleasing in all its parts and proportions; although it need scarcely be said that it suffers considerably in being dissociated from its singular surroundings. To see it as an engraving does not convey an adequate conception of it when looked down upon at any season of the year, especially when the central groups of beds are in full bloom. The boundary 12 is composed of a groundwork of pure white finely-sifted sand, on which are laid down densely-formed patterns of the common wild Heath, rising about two inches above the sand, and as close and even as a well-kept lawn,—the edging to these borders being of light-coloured stonework. The large inner corner beds, 11, are grass. The group of beds in centre is on gravel, the beds themselves being divided into narrow borders by box edgings and paths of white sand. The gravel on the whole of the main walks being of a dark colour, the white sand shows with a very distinct effect, but not too much for the dark of the heather, the green of the grass, or the flowers of the centre beds.

This is a garden adapted only for planting on strictly parterre principles, and it would be difficult to shape a design that would better answer that purpose on the position it occupies. To plant it on any other principle than the complementary, or to introduce tall-growing herbaceous plants, would be productive of effects the most incongruous.

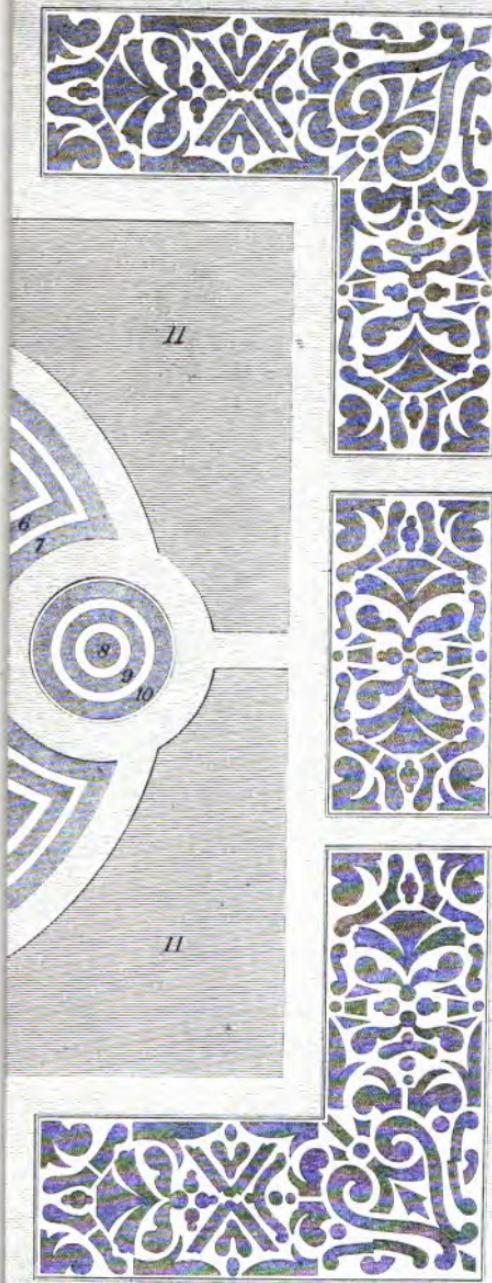
The following are examples of ways in which it may be planted to look well:—

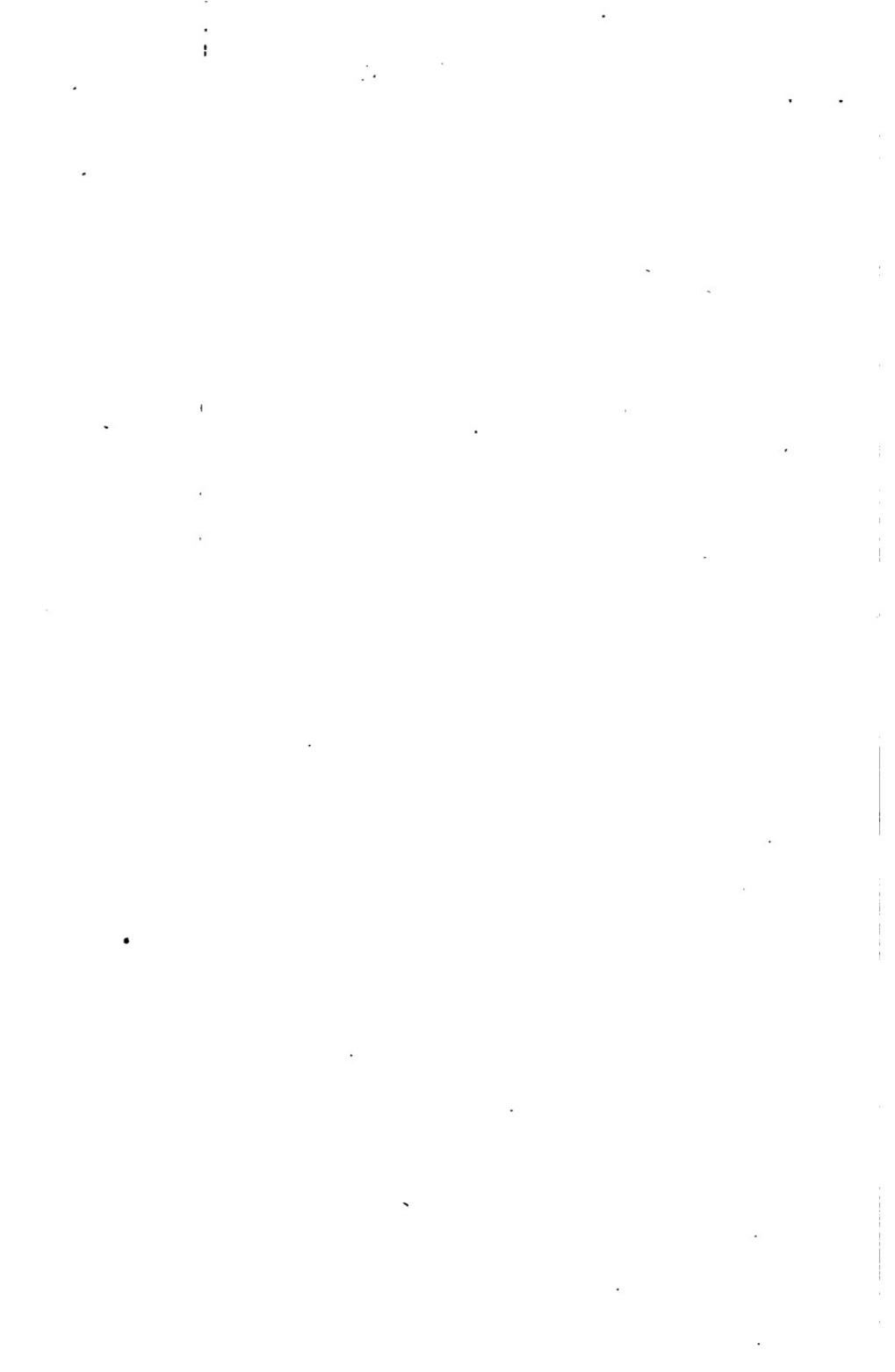
- 1.—Silver-variegated Pelargonium, any dwarf variety, with cerise flowers.
- 2.—Ageratum Imperial Dwarf; lively lavender.
- 3.—Crimson Verbena or Pelargonium of dwarf close habit.
- 4, 4, 4, 4.—Ageratum.
- 5, 5, 5, 5.—Gazania splendens; orange.
- 6, 6, 6, 6.—Iresine Lindenii, for which the bed must be kept below the level of 5, 5, 5, 5, to bring them to the same level. Where Alternantheras do well they may be used.
- 7, 7, 7, 7.—Mangles' variegated Pelargonium, silver variegated with pink flowers.
- 8, 8, 8.—Viola Perpetual Yellow or Pyrethrum Golden Feather.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Lobelia speciosa.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Tropæolum Cooperii or Mrs Ellis.

Another way:—

- 1.—Dwarf yellow Calceolaria or Perpetual Yellow Viola.
- 2.—Lobelia speciosa.
- 3.—Tropæolum Cooperii or Mrs Ellis,

PLATE X
White Sand
Garden
Drumlanrig





- 4, 4, 4, 4.—Ageratum.
 5, 5, 5, 5.—Mangles' variegated Pelargonium.
 6, 6, 6, 6.—Tropæolum.
 7, 7, 7, 7.—Lobelia speciosa.
 8, 8, 8, 8.—Gazania splendens.
 9, 9, 9, 9.—Iresine Lindenii or Alternanthera.
 10, 10, 10, 10.—Dwarf silver-variegated Pelargonium with cerise flowers.

The following also look well :—

- 1.—Variegated Pelargonium, with dwarf neat plant of *Yucca aloifolia* variegata in centre.
- 2.—Lobelia speciosa.
- 3.—Gazania splendens.
- 4, 4, 4, 4.—Ageratum, with neat plant of variegated American Aloe in centre.
- 5, 5, 5, 5.—Gazania splendens.
- 6, 6, 6, 6.—Iresine or dwarf crimson Verbena.
- 7, 7, 7, 7.—Mangles' variegated Pelargonium or Alyssum variegatum.
- 8, 8, 8, 8.—Crystal Palace Gem Pelargonium, with flowers kept off; golden Pyrethrum or yellow Viola, with large plant of *Echeveria gigantea* or *E. metallica* in centre.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Lobelia speciosa.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Tropæolum Mrs Ellis.

As a spring garden, for which such a group is well adapted :—

- 1.—Arabis albida; white Pansy or white Daisy.
- 2.—Blue Pansy or Forget-me-not.
- 3.—Anemone coronaria, scarlet, or *Silene pendula*; or if No. 1 be not Daisy, scarlet Daisy.
- 4, 4, 4, 4.—Purple Viola or Forget-me-not.
- 5, 5, 5, 5.—Alyssum saxatile or *Cheiranthus alpinus*.
- 6, 6, 6, 6.—Saponaria calabrica; red Primrose or *Calandrinia umbellata*.
- 7, 7, 7, 7.—White Pansy, white Forget-me-not, or white Daisy.
- 8, 8, 8, 8.—Purple Pansy.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Limnanthes Douglasii or yellow Viola.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Anemone coronaria, scarlet.

Another way :—

- 1.—Alyssum saxatile or yellow Viola.
- 2.—Nemophila insignis; or, if Alyssum be in 1, blue Pansy.
- 3.—Red Daisy.
- 4, 4, 4, 4.—Purple Pansy or purple Primrose.
- 5, 5, 5, 5.—Limnanthes sulphurea or *Cheiranthus Marshallii*.
- 6, 6, 6, 6.—Calandrinia umbellata.
- 7, 7, 7, 7.—Alyssum maritimum or white Daisy or Pansy.
- 8, 8, 8, 8.—Yellow Pansy or Alyssum saxatile.
- 9, 9, 9, 9.—Scilla bifolia or Nemophila insignis.
- 10, 10, 10, 10.—Red Daisy.

To keep these to their proper levels, on which much of the effect depends, is easily managed by lowering one bed and raising another, according to the heights of the plants used in each bed.

The dotting of taller-growing things on groundworks of a different colour can be carried out the same as directed for Design No. 1; but we recommend such a design as this to be planted, each part with one distinct colour, and for distant effect on the contrasting principle.

CHAPTER XVII.

PLANTING OUT AND WATERING.

Planting out.—The beds should be forked over and well pulverised to the depth of 8 inches or 1 foot a few days before it is intended to begin planting. Where the soil is heavy, and with a tendency to cake and become lumpy, this operation is best performed after a slight rain, and when the weather is warm and sunny. This is, in fact, trapping the sunbeams—at least their genial warmth—and digging them into the flower-beds. The levelling and raking of the beds into perfect outline should follow immediately upon the pulverising operation. There are no better tools for these operations than Parke's steel digging-fork, and an iron rake with angular-shaped teeth. A slight dressing of quicklime forked in is very beneficial to heavy soils, both chemically and mechanically. By raking off all unsightly objects, such as stones, pieces of stick, &c., that come to the surface, there will be less need for raking much after the beds are planted.

The outline into which the beds are formed must to some extent be guided by circumstances as well as taste, as to the appearance of an individual bed. Where the group of beds to be planted is on grass, and at a considerable distance apart, so that the outline of one bed does not hide that of another, or any part of it, then I recommend the beds to be well elevated, and to start rather abruptly from the edge of the grass, but always showing a clear edging uncovered with soil, to the extent of an inch or more. The centre of a bed—say, for instance, a circle 14 feet in diameter—should be about 15 inches above the level of the grass in such a group as is now being considered. On the other hand, wherever the beds in a group are divided from each other by narrower spaces of

either gravel or grass, the contour of the beds must be flatter if one bed is not in some degree to interfere with getting a proper view of the other. This refers with much force to a group of beds which are chiefly viewed and studied from a level equal to themselves. When to be viewed from an eminence—the best position from which to view a flower-garden *en masse*—it does not matter so much, though even then the elevation of the beds should be considerably moderated in comparison to what is very effective when beds are wider apart.

The different varieties of plants should be assorted and placed at convenient points, as the plan for planting and the nature of the garden may indicate; and if men are to be called in from other departments to assist in planting who are not well acquainted with plants, each group should have a legible label attached to it. These simple matters will prevent confusion, and save a deal of ordering and instructions when planting is being proceeded with. To expedite and prevent confusion and delay while the work is being done, a working plan of every bed should be previously prepared; and when the planting begins, the labour should as much as possible be divided. Suppose that in large establishments there are available nine men, and that the plants are located not far off, and water handy, six of the men may be put in pairs as planters; the other three to be employed in bringing the plants and setting them down conveniently to each bed, watering, and clearing out of the way empty pots, boxes, &c. At the head of all should be the master or foreman, or both, thoroughly conversant with the matured working plans, and ready to direct, correct, and instruct with both tongue and hands, as may be required. In this way the work goes on like clockwork, and confusion and blunders are avoided. Variety of circumstances may of course necessitate variety of arrangement; but every gardener knows how important it is to get this work not only well but speedily executed, while a hundred operations require attention in other departments of a garden establishment at this busy season.

In general, the third week of May is early enough to begin planting. This, however, ought to be entirely regulated by circumstances, the chief of which are the general climate of the district, the position as to shelter of the flower-garden, and the condition of the plants, as well as the character of individual seasons. In favoured localities and in dry warm

soils, with well-hardened-off plants, planting may generally be completed by the end of May, with the exception of very tender plants; but where circumstances are the reverse of these, the first week of June is a safer time to begin. It is much better to be a week late than to remove plants out of sheltered positions, when they are standing close together, into the open beds, to receive a check from either cold winds or a night's frost sufficient to affect their wellbeing the whole season.

It is usual in dry seasons to wait for rain before a commencement is made; but, so far as my own experience and observation are concerned, this is not necessary, nor even desirable. Plants that are put in when the ground is rather dry than otherwise, and that receive one good watering, generally start better into growth than when the ground is wet and sticky. When the ground is dry the operation can be gone about with much more comfort and speed, and the soil runs in more freely about and among the roots than when it is wet. The wet soil and roots, too, are apt to be pressed into hardened lumps, instead of being properly distributed the one amongst the other.

A very important matter is to have the balls of the plants in a proper condition of moisture. A medium is what should be aimed at. If planted when dry, it is most difficult to turn those in pots out with speed, or to properly moisten the ball after it is put in the ground; for in watering, the water escapes round it in the newly-loosened soil, leaving the dry ball just as it was when planted; and under such circumstances, in dry weather the plants receive a serious check. When, on the other hand, the balls are too wet, they are very apt to be broken and squeezed together in an unnatural way. The best way in dry weather is to water all plants in pots the evening before planting, so that in the morning they are in a medium state of moistness, which is the proper state for both speedy and safe planting. This of course applies to plants in pots with more force than to those growing in boxes or beds, to shake out which comfortably—in the case of those which cannot well be lifted with balls—the soil ought to be rather dry than otherwise. All such, as well as those lifted from beds with balls, are less likely to suffer from inefficient watering after being planted than are those turned out of pots.

All plants that have roots hanging out freely from their balls, or that are entirely shaken out of the soil, should, in the process of planting, have these roots let down deeply into the

ground. This is of great advantage, particularly if a season of drought follows the time of planting. Indeed it is preferable to plant the majority of the plants deeply rather than the reverse, especially when the soil is dry and light.

For despatch and correctness in planting much depends on the manner in which the work is begun and carried out. Some person perfectly conversant with the planting design first takes a measuring rod, and marks a ring all round the beds where the first line of the body of the bed is to be planted, preserving the exact shape of the bed, or any design which is to form the centre. This at once marks off the limits to which the centre plants are to extend, and at the same time the space to be taken up with those which are to form the edging. If the bed be circular, the outside ring of the centre plants should be planted first, and ring after ring put in, finishing in the centre. This is a simple way of preserving outline in each ring or row of plants. Then the inside row of the edging, if to be formed of two lines, is planted first, and the last line next the box, or grass, or stone edging put in last of all, with particular exactness as to outline. In planting large beds, where the workman must step on to them to plant the centre, he should be furnished with pieces of light board on which to stand, to prevent trampling the soil, so doing it harm, as well as spoiling its equality of surface. In planting beds which in shape approach the square or parallelogram, the line should always be used. For putting in all plants with balls attached to them, we would strongly recommend the use of a tool not much known, except on a large scale for transplanting,—namely, a miniature M'Glashan's transplanting machine (fig. 4). With this a man can take out an opening big enough for plants turned out of 4 and 6 inch pots just as quickly as one stroke of a trowel can be made. This tool has been long used by Mr Norval, gardener to the Earl of Galloway, for flower-gardening and other purposes, and it was he who first altered the handles from some original forms of the same tool into the short spade-like handle, and called my attention to its value and capabilities. It is peculiarly suitable for amateurs, and even ladies, as it saves a deal of stooping and hard work; and it deserves to be better known and more generally in use than it is. It lifts the soil out, and lays

Fig. 4.



it down on the off-side of the line, ready to be placed round the roots of the plant by the persons that follow to plant. For long stretches of borders this simple tool is invaluable, and the best way to use it is to stretch the line along the border exactly where the stems of the plants are to be, and mark the soil by running a rod with a notch in the end of it along the line. The line is then removed, and the mark shows where the centres of the pits are to be ; and with this tool one man well up at handling it can keep four planters going. A small-sized instrument of the same sort is first-rate for planting bulbs in beds in the autumn, much to be preferred to a dibble, which in damp soil leaves the holes hard and compressed at the sides, and consequently much more likely to be a receptacle for standing water in times of heavy rains.

Every plant should have a good soaking of water immediately each bed is planted. If the whole bed be thoroughly soaked, all the better ; and as soon as the surface becomes moderately dry, let it be Dutch-hoed, so as to leave a loose surface and prevent evaporation. If raked at all, avoid the too common practice of making the surface of the beds as smooth almost as the surface of a barrel of flour. If the ground be nicely regulated, removing all unsightly objects which may come to the surface in planting, it is much to be preferred to the close solid surface left by fine raking, and which the first heavy shower converts into a crust, and a conductor of both heat and moisture out of the soil.

Where the beds are much exposed to winds, it is a good plan to plant with the tops of the plants leaning away from the direction from which winds most prevail. When so fixed in the ground, they are less likely to get broken. This applies most to Pelargoniums, and such plants as cannot well be pegged down at once,—a process which I do not recommend, except as a security against breakage. Calceolarias are very liable to damage from high winds, and it is a good plan to stick some stiff, twiggy, leafless spruce branches around each plant as put in. The plants grow amongst and over them, and hide them while they derive support from them. This is a good plan in the case of all the more brittle sorts of plants. When the soil is naturally poor and dry, the plants will be greatly benefited by mulching the surface of the beds with short manure to the depth of an inch. The manure from an old mushroom bed is excellent for this purpose ; and where this cannot well be afforded, and moss is easily got, a surfacing of it prevents

evaporation, and looks very neat and pretty. Calceolarias particularly should be treated thus, as they are very impatient of extremes of drought and moisture.

On cold heavy soils, if a handful or two of light rich soil is put round each plant, it helps greatly to give them a quick start. The planter can use this handily out of a strong basket with a handle to it, so that it can be quickly and easily moved along with him as he proceeds with planting.

When the work is thus performed, and the stock of plants healthy and hardy, it is astonishing how few blanks occur either from breakage or any other death cause. At the same time, a reserve stock of all plants, according to the number used, should be formed to fill up any blanks that may occur. If circumstances permit, the reserves are best potted into 5 or 6 inch pots, and placed in a sheltered but open place. They are thus in a position to make up gaps in the course of summer without receiving a check when planted.

Watering.—In the whole round of amateur gardening, the operation of watering flowering plants is perhaps the most inefficiently performed, though the most common of all. Outdoor watering is, as far as I have been able to observe, much more frequently resorted to in the gardens of amateurs than in extensive establishments which come under the supervision of professional gardeners. This could perhaps be accounted for by more reasons than one. In the first place, watering after a certain fashion forms to the inexperienced one of the most pleasing recreations which his spare morning and evening hours can afford, especially in those cases where, from vague ideas regarding it, the operation is deprived of its completeness and usefulness, which, when thoroughly understood and practised, renders the watering-pots the implements of heavy drudgery, to be as seldom called into operation as possible. In fact, the general opinion of the most experienced is, that outdoor watering, except in particular cases, is better left alone, unless time and water can be afforded to do it much more copiously than it is generally performed. The watering-pots are resorted to only during hot parching weather, when plants show signs of languishing, and are apparently not making any progress. In the next place, many who regularly have recourse with pleasure and delight to the operation of watering, are, judging from the way in which it is performed, entirely ignorant of the evils consequent on its inefficient performance.

Water being the chief vehicle through which food is conveyed to plants from the soil, and in the atmosphere the preventive of evaporation from the foliage, in order to be beneficial in these respects, it must be administered in such quantity as shall penetrate sufficiently deep into the ground to reach the roots, in contradistinction to the too common method of merely painting or sprinkling the surface of the soil; and as far as watering can affect the atmosphere, and feed and preserve the strength of plants in that manner during hot weather, its effects must be very limited indeed.

A mere sprinkling of the surface of the soil is productive of more evil than good. In its necessarily rapid evaporation the soil is robbed of its heat, and on stiff soils particularly it leaves the surface in a hard and caked condition, rendering it a better heat-conductor than when loose and porous; and in proportion as the heat-conducting power of the soil is increased, so also is the evaporation of moisture. Therefore, not only do surface sprinklings evaporate with the rising of the sun without ever having reached the roots, or materially benefited the plants, but the natural moisture which may rise by capillary attraction is also more likely to evaporate by the compact surface produced by daily sprinkling.

These considerations render it almost superfluous to give detailed advice as to the proper quantity or way of administering water during hot scorching weather; and the natural inference will be, that watering, to be of any material service, must be given in quantity sufficient to reach down to the roots of plants, and that the less frequent its application is made necessary—by keeping the surface of the soil well stirred and loose, to prevent evaporation—the better. From what has been said, it will not be difficult to understand why so much difference of opinion exists as to whether artificial watering during a dry season is beneficial or injurious. One who thoroughly understands what he is about, and waters—when he does water—almost to irrigation, and plies the Dutch hoe among his crops the next morning, is in a position to assert that his plants do derive unmistakable benefit from watering. Another, who rests content with merely sprinkling the surface of the soil frequently, leaving it meanwhile to become a hardened crust, may assert with equal truth that watering appears to do more harm than good.

But to be practical: Take, for instance, a bed of Calceolarias or Verbenas in a hot scorching June or July, which have

been planted out some three weeks before—perhaps when the weather was moist and showery: a parching drought overtakes them, and continues—the piercing rays of the sun drawing with his heating power every drop of moisture from plant and soil. Let the watering be infinitesimal and frequent, leaving the surface caked and unstirred. Under such treatment the plants get hard and wiry, and seem to become set altogether, blooming prematurely and not covering the bed; and if it were a bed of early celery, it would all run to seed, and be useless. But give sufficient water to thoroughly soak the bed of earth, and then let the surface soil be kept well stirred; in six or eight days renew the dose of water and the stirring: the result will be, that the plants get greener, and creep over the surface of the bed, gradually hiding the surface of the soil, and bursting into bloom.

Now, the work incurred in mere sprinkling, and the water wasted, is quite as serious an affair from the labour point of view as an efficient watering once a-week; and in the one case the labour is worse than in vain, while in the other the end in view is gained. An evening dewing over the foliage is beneficial, if the root watering is as efficient as has been described.

In the case of seeds sown during severe drought, it not unfrequently happens that they are watered after being sown, with the view of causing them to germinate; and under such circumstances it sometimes occurs, from the production of extreme alternations of moisture and drought to which they are subjected every four-and-twenty hours, that they perish altogether. To prevent this, and to secure with certainty and rapidity a healthy germination, the bed should be well watered, both before and after the seed is sown, and then shaded from the sun with evergreen boughs or mats, till the seed sprouts and the young plants appear above ground, when one more good soaking insures their success.

Regarding the watering of plants immediately after being planted out, I refer to what has been said under the heading “planting out”; and here I offer a few observations on the application of manure in a liquid form. This is of great importance during seasons of drought; and though this does not apply so forcibly to flower-gardening, it does to some extent, especially on poor light soils and in dry localities. Plants are incapable of deriving nourishment or of taking up food of any kind, unless it is presented to them in a liquid or gaseous form; and it is because of this that we so often see

and hear of the most satisfactory results arising from the application of manure in a liquid form. Manure can be applied thus more equally through the soil, and at a time when the cultivator finds that it will be of the greatest moment to stimulate his crop. The real value of manure in a liquid form is now more clearly seen and felt; and it requires no prophet to foresee that the day will yet arrive when the sewage of our mighty hives of industry will be turned to a more profitable account than at present. It has been computed that 1500 tons of liquid, highly impregnated with animal and vegetable matter, and consequently of great manurial value, finds its way daily into the sewers of London. It may be supposed that this loss of sewage has little or no bearing on the manuring of flower beds and borders; but the very same loss is going on continually in many gardens where, it may be, a considerable outlay has to be made to manure the beds, especially in the case of small places where rotten leaves and other manure are not attainable, and all the while the whole drainage is being lost. From this very source, in combination with collected refuse, in the shape of vegetable trimmings, the old flowering plants themselves, and all such matter that can be more or less collected about a garden, a fine manure-heap might be collected yearly. The sewage, if collected into a tank, could be poured over such refuse-heaps when turned over, and a layer of common garden soil placed over all, to be mixed in with the heap at the next turning. Such a compost as this, turned over several times through the winter, would preserve a quantity of excellent manure for applying to the beds in spring. No fear need be entertained that the rains will wash the manurial elements out of such a heap of soil, for chemistry proves that the earth holds its plant-feeding elements in suspension in spite of the passage of water through it. At the same time, where such deposits can be protected from heavy rains, it is better; for in turning such refuse-heaps over, they mix much better when moderately dry than when soaked with heavy rains. Such deposits as can thus be preserved are invaluable for mixing with flower beds that are naturally poor, and in which most flower-garden plants will not continue to bloom satisfactorily, unless well manured and watered in dry seasons. In the case of heavy soils there can be no better absorbent of sewage than a heap of burned clay or charred refuse of any sort; and when mixed into heavy soils by means of such vehicles, the effect is beneficial, both mechanically and chemically.

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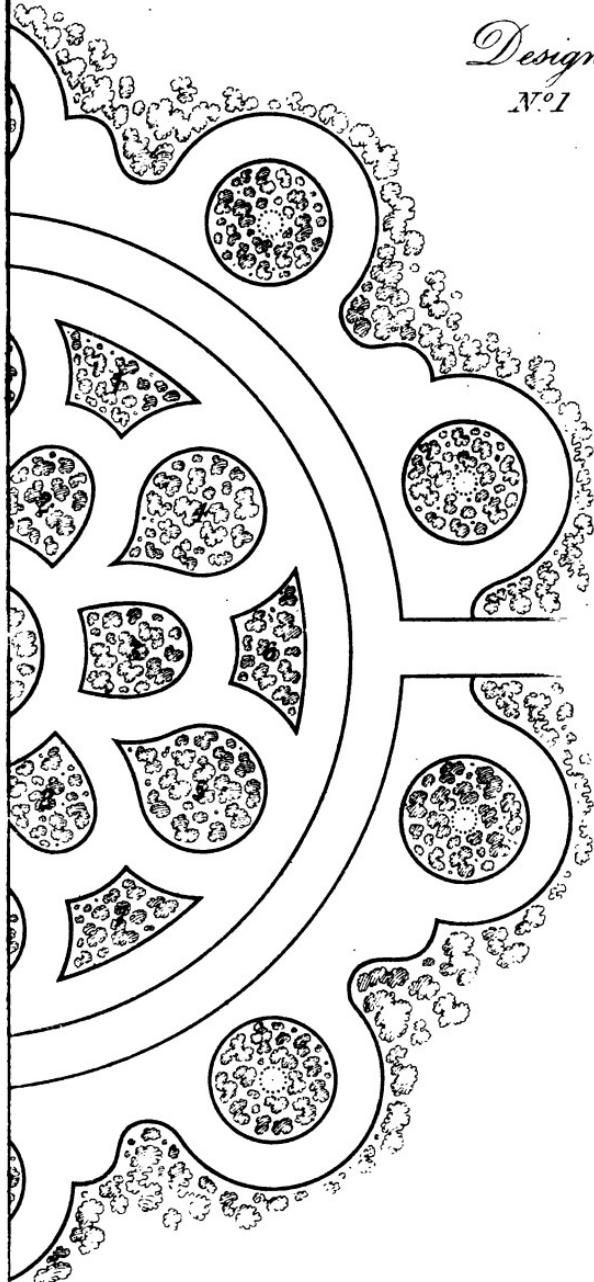
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